

THE EXPLOSION KILLS 300 MEN

Hulton Colliery, Near London, England, Destroyed

Bodies Found Near Mouth Shaft—No Hope for Others in Mine.

More than 300 men lost their lives in an explosion in the Hulton colliery of the Hulton Colliery company, located a short distance from London, England. The explosion occurred early this morning, soon after the miners had entered the pit. Its force was terrific, and investigation showed that the passage had been blocked. The explosion prevented the rescue efforts from being made. The explosion occurred on the morning of the 19th, but a fire which followed the explosion prevented the rescue efforts from being made. The explosion occurred on the morning of the 19th, but a fire which followed the explosion prevented the rescue efforts from being made. The explosion occurred on the morning of the 19th, but a fire which followed the explosion prevented the rescue efforts from being made.

SCORE DEAD IN FIRE

of Five-Story Building Crushed by Firemen and Police.

Philadelphia.—Probably twelve firemen and scores were injured in a fire which destroyed D. P. Friedlander's five-story building, 1116 to 1120 North Bodine street, which crumbled and crushed them. Two separate disasters occurred in the conflagration. Firemen fighting the seething furnace of the factory were caught when the walls fell, and while efforts were made to rescue the survivors of the wreck and policemen had been sent to prevent a repetition of the accident at the north wall, that part of the building tumbled and fell, burying half a dozen policemen at work there. More than twenty injured have been taken to the hospitals. At least twelve were taken to hospitals, half a dozen have fractured skulls and are badly injured. The chances of recovery are slight.

WHITTIER'S POEMS FOUND.

Whole Nest' of Hitherto Unpublished Verses Discovered.

Northampton, Mass.—Samuel T. Pickard, brother of John Greenleaf Whittier and now living in the old Whittier home in this town, tells of his discovery of a "whole nest" of verses by Whittier never before recognized as his. In commenting on his discovery of a volume of the New Englander of 1830-31, Mr. Pickard says: "While it was edited by Whittier, I found a whole nest of poems by Whittier. The signature was the name, 'Fernandez.' I find that Fernandez is Whittier's, and that he signed his signature before and after some editor of the Review."

HARBIN APPEALS TO JAPS.

Physicians Refuse to Succor Cholera Victims.

Petersburg.—The correspondents of the Associated Press telegraph the ravages of the bubonic plague in Harbin are unchecked. Corpses mark the sites of abandoned houses. The situation in Manchuria is grave. German consul at Harbin has addressed a pressing note to the Taotai, asking that radical measures be taken to stop the epidemic and stating otherwise Germany will interfere. Municipality of Harbin has invited these physicians to attend the disease in the barracks, as the Russians refuse to expose themselves. On October 26 to December 11 482 persons and 11 Russians were stricken.

German Birth Rate Lags.

Berlin.—As a result of computations recently completed, it is found that the birth rate in Germany is decreasing. Biologists are anxiously drawing attention to the menace of race suicide. The year's birth rate for every 1000 population throughout the empire only 83, as against 36 for the preceding year, and 42 per 1000 in 1890, and 42 per 1000 in 1890. The decline is attributed to the increasing reluctance of persons, especially in cities, to accept the burden of raising large families.

Nonunion Goods Stolen.

Chicago.—Five thousand dollars' worth of woollens, waiting to be delivered to nonunion tailor shops, were stolen from the Hirsch Wickersham company. The goods had been loaded on a wagon and were in a barn ready for delivery, to be made up in the city. Shortly afterward, however, it was discovered that the place had been broken into and the goods carried off.

WAR SCARE ONLY TRICK.

Shipbuilders and Steel Trust Want Big Orders.

Washington.—Back of the war scare caused by Secretary Dickinson's confidential answer to the request of Congressman McLachlan of California is the activity of the shipbuilding interests and the steel trust as an active factor in the agitation. A year ago correspondents of Pacific Coast papers were impudently by representatives of Pacific Coast shipbuilding concerns to urge the need of a fleet of submarines and the enactment of a law to provide that during the next ten years 50 submarines be built on the Pacific Coast.

This frank admission that the Western shipbuilding interests were largely responsible for the agitation which at that time was carried on to alarm the West coast people, was made to me when I sought to ascertain why so suddenly patriots had discovered the so-called defenseless position of the West coast.

A meeting of some of the Pacific Coast senators and representatives had been called and a dinner had been given, one of the results of which had been the appointment of a committee of members from Washington and California to present to the president a memorial embodying plans for submarines.

These facts were given me by a representative of a Seattle ship yard, working with whom, as he admitted, was the vice president of a San Francisco ship yard.

About that time Secretary Meyer delivered an address at Philadelphia in which he advocated the building of battleships for one reason—that it gave business to the steel industry.

Apparently Congressman Tawney is right in charging more or less conspiracy to scare the country into bolstering the program of military enthusiasts. These evidences point to activities by a ship yard to lobby and the advocates of a large standing army.

Secretary Dickinson hints at the need of a standing army of 450,000 men, instead of the present effective force of 115,000.

MEXICAN TROOPS LOSE.

Government Forces Nearly Annihilated by Insurrectos at La Junta.

El Paso, Tex.—President Diaz' Mexican army has suffered a loss of 950 men in dead and wounded in a battle at La Junta, according to the latest news from the scene of hostilities. The federal troops engaged in the fight numbered 1000 men. When they raised the white flag there were only 50 able bodied men in the force that surrendered to the victorious revolutionists.

La Junta is a small town on the Mexico, Northwestern and Orient railroad. News of the battle and its result was sent out by railway employees. The telegraph wires were cut later.

There has been fighting near Ojinaga, south of Marfa, Texas. Many horses belonging to Mexican troops escaped into Texas and it is believed that the federals were annihilated. Reinforcements should have arrived there last night or today if they were not defeated, marching westward from the Orient railroad station at Palomir. They left Chihuahua last Sunday for Palomir.

John D. Draws \$19.32 a Minute.

New York.—John D. Rockefeller's Standard Oil income is \$19.32 a minute, according to the quarterly dividend of 10 per cent, amounting to \$10,000,000 on all the stock which has been authorized by the directors. It is now estimated that Rockefeller, since 1882, has received \$180,000,000 in Standard Oil dividends in addition to \$100,000,000, his equity in the profits of the concern. Since 1882 the company has disbursed \$79,812,820 out of its profits of \$419,129,442, leaving a surplus of \$419,679,444.

Sealskins No Higher.

Victoria, B. C.—The sealskin sale held at Lamson's in London, at which the total catch, over 3,000 skins, of the Victoria pelagic fleet, the United States government take of 12,000 from the Pribilof rookeries and catches of locally owned schooners in the south Atlantic and Antarectic, about 16,000 or 17,000 pelts in all, were offered, showed no advance in prices over last year, according to advices received here.

Tremendous Earthquake Recorded.

Cleveland, O.—An earthquake similar to that which wrought such havoc in the island of Java many years ago, was recorded on the seismograph at St. Ignatius college. The records of the two quakes are being compared.

Washington, Dec. 17.—Secretary of the Navy Meyer this afternoon assigned the obsolete cruisers Boston and Concord to the Oregon and Washington naval militia, respectively.

BRIEF REPORT OF THE DAILY WORK OF NATION'S LAWMAKERS

Wednesday, Dec. 21.

Washington, Dec. 21.—Declaring "calendar Wednesday" was "peculiarly sacred," Speaker Cannon today refused to permit the immediate consideration of a special message sent to congress by President Taft. Less than eighty members were present, in spite of the fact that it was "calendar Wednesday."

Most of the session was taken up with a discussion of the Moon bill for a revision of laws relating to the judiciary. Taft's special message recommended the adoption of a law authorizing President Taft and officials of the state of Texas to mark the boundary between Texas and New Mexico. The message was read and its consideration suggested by the speaker objected.

The senate today adjourned at 2 o'clock. It will reconvene January 5. The senate this afternoon adopted the recommendation of the president authorizing him to settle the Texas-New Mexico boundary question.

The physical valuation of railroads is demanded in the report of the interstate commerce commission submitted today to congress. The report refers to "the well known fact that no court, commission, accountant or financial writer would for a moment consider that the present balance sheet in the statement purporting to give 'cost of property' suggests even remotely or in a reliable measure either the money invested or the present value of the railroads."

Tuesday, December 20.

Washington.—The spectacle of a congressman desiring to withdraw from committee a bill for a government appropriation of \$5,000,000 for his constituency and of another congressman opposing the motion was presented in the house of representatives when Julius Kahn, of California, moved that a house committee be discharged from considering a resolution introduced last December asking federal aid for the Panama exposition to be held in San Francisco in 1915.

In making the motion, Kahn declared that California no longer needed a federal appropriation, having raised \$17,500,000 for the project. Washington.—In order to conform with the pure food laws, all packages of foods will have to bear a statement of the exact measure of the contents on the label, if a substitute bill to be submitted to the house by Representative Mann, of Illinois, becomes a law. The substitute bill is intended to take the place of Mann's original amendment to the pure food law. Mann decided to change his bill after a conference with Chicago and New York business men.

The death knell of "suspension of the rules" day was sounded, so far as the present session is concerned, through the instrumentality of Speaker Cannon, who thereby got a unique revenge. The house had finished the unanimous consent calendar, and Speaker Cannon called up the first bill on the calendar of motions to discharge committees. The measure was a provision for revision and codification of the postal laws. The document contains hundreds of pages, and probably would occupy all the time of a "suspension day" that would last through the remainder of the session. Cannon's ruling will probably cut off all further attempts to suspend the rules.

The appointment of Martin A. Knapp to be a judge of the United States commerce court was confirmed by the senate. Knapp has been chairman of the interstate commerce commission for several years.

Monday, December 19.

Washington, Dec. 19.—The Indian appropriation bill, carrying items aggregating \$9,215,430, was reported to the senate today. The total represents a net increase of \$987,995 over the amount of the bill as it was passed by the house. Of this increase \$600,000 is to carry out the awards to the loyal Lost Creeks, in accordance with an agreement made with that tribe in 1901.

A bill to promote commerce between the United States and foreign countries in wood pulp and the printing paper industry was introduced today by Representative Ferris, of Oklahoma. It provides that wood pulp and printing paper shall be admitted to the United States free of duty, on condition that the government where it is produced and from which it is imported restricts the exportation or imposes an export charge.

Washington, Dec. 19.—The majority and minority reports of the special Ballinger-Pinchot investigating committee will be reported out of the house committee on agriculture without comment. The reports were referred to that committee and members of the committee have been loath to take the question, figuring that the reports having come from a committee should have been left on the speaker's table instead of going to another committee. The committee on agriculture considered the matter briefly, and the plan is to send the reports back to the house.

This will put the matter before the house in the shape that the minority members wish and the motion to adopt the majority report will be followed by a minority proposition to substitute the minority report. Considerable speechmaking on the whole issue is probable before the controversy is out of the way. The question will not come up until after the holiday recess. The government could have saved \$1,500,000 if it could have the battleship New York built in a private yard

Will Alight on Warship.

Washington.—In response to a request by Lieutenant Paul Beck and the San Francisco citizens' aviation committee, a naval vessel will be assigned for experimental duty in San Francisco Bay during the aviation meet in January. Glenn H. Curtiss and his assistants have signified a willingness to attempt to land on the deck of a warship in an aeroplane. Rear Admiral Barry was ordered to arrange with the San Francisco committee for the experiment.

Canal Men Get No Raise.

Washington.—H. L. Mayhew, representing the hourly employes on the Panama Canal, was at the White House and asked President Taft to grant still further concessions to the boiler-makers and other mechanics. Following his recent visit to the zone, the President denied a request for a general increase in pay, but extended from two to four weeks the amount of leave with pay granted the hourly employes. It is doubtful if the President will make any further concessions.

instead of at the New York navy yard, according to the testimony of Chief Constructor Watt, of the navy, before the house committee on naval affairs today.

He said there would be material saving to the government if it could build all the vessels by contract.

Saturday, Dec. 17.

Washington, Dec. 17.—Action on the case of William Lorimer, whose election to the United States senate from Illinois it was charged was accomplished through bribery, was deferred today by the senate committee on privileges and elections until next Tuesday.

Senator Bourne's resolution validating the local expenditures on the Sins-law improvement project, was adopted by the senate today.

Senator Chamberlain today procured a favorable report from the committee on the \$15,000 appropriation for the Chemawa Indian school, for building and improvements.

The senate this afternoon passed the urgent deficiency bill, which was passed by the house this morning.

President Taft today ordered a modification of the walking test required of naval officers. The officers are required to walk 25 miles in two days. No officer must exert himself in order to finish under eight hours of actual walking. The Roosevelt requirement was a 50 mile test in three days.

Senator Lodge today attacked the Cummins resolution to provide for tariff revision schedule by schedule, declaring he favored the purpose of the Cummins measure, but differed with the Iowa senator as to the method of execution. Lodge added that he thought a senate resolution would be sufficient and that it was unnecessary to bind both houses to a certain mode of procedure.

LAND SALES \$12,198,460.

Reclamation Fund Secures More Than Half of Sum.

Washington.—Twenty-three states participated in the division of the money received from public lands during last year, according to figures given out at the general land office. The total amount received from the public land sales totaled approximately \$12,198,460, of which \$5,257,995 was placed in the United States treasury as the net proceeds of the sales, \$6,678,854 went to the credit of the reclamation fund, and \$261,991 was turned over to the United States as its share of the proceeds. Only 15 states participated in the divisions of the reclamation funds. Those states receiving no funds on this account have no reclamation projects within their borders. North Dakota leads with the largest amount turned into the treasury, \$788,974; ranks first in the amount received by the states, \$39,448, but takes third place in the amount given to the credit of the reclamation fund, \$882,714.

South Dakota is second in all the divisions. The net proceeds converted into the treasury from the sale of lands in that state amounted to \$701,395; the amount accredited to the state is \$35,069, and the amount for the reclamation fund is \$948,514.

The third state in the matter of net proceeds turned into the treasury and the amount accredited to the state, tops those receiving money for the reclamation fund. Montana takes this position. The net proceeds in that state amounted to \$633,175. The amount to the state is \$31,658, and the amount to the reclamation fund is given as \$983,721.

DRY DOCK BIDS OPENED.

Meyer Will Not Raise Eight-Hour Question on Right.

Washington, Dec. 23.—Bids for the construction of the caissons for the dry docks now in process of building at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, naval station, the Puget Sound, Washington, navy yard, and the New York navy yard were opened at the navy department today.

The caissons are built in the shape of vessels, and constitute the gates to the dry docks.

The labor problem raised in connection with the work, involving application of the eight-hour law to the construction of the caissons, was not decided by the attorney general, who said the question was beyond his jurisdiction. The attorney general said the question was one for the courts to decide in case the issue were raised.

The navy department informed bidders that the point would not be brought up by the government, but the department, of course, was unable to speak for the labor interests. In the event the unions raised the question, it would be a subject for judicial determination.

The lowest bidder for the New York caisson was the Sear & Triest Company, of New York, whose price was \$122,980. The Moran Company, of Seattle, was the lowest bidder for the other two caissons, their proposal for the Pearl Harbor caissons being \$110,000, and for the Puget Sound structure \$125,000.

Time to Stop.

It was the quiet moment at the breakfast table.

"Did you ever see an alpine stick?" asked the smart boarder, who had once won a ticket to Europe in a prize puzzle contest.

"Oh, yes," yawned the buffoon boarder as he reached for the celery, "an alpine will stick much better on a windy day than a derby."

And then even the landlady laughed.

GIRLS IN THE MIDDLE AGES

Love Was Favorite Theme of Conversation—Relations With Young Men Very Distant.

Dancing, for something like three hundred years, was a function rather than a pleasure, though certain of the beautiful elaborate figures which have come down to us ended with the partners giving each other a kiss, says a writer in the Lady's Pictorial. Kissing indeed was held in high favor, and a medieval way of saying, "When I first met her" ran "The first time I kissed her hand." But the relations between young men and young women in ordinary day-to-day life were distant in the extreme.

As to the actual subjects of conversation between the sexes, and even when only ladies, young and old, were present, it was usual to choose some lofty theme and then discuss it in all its bearings. One of the damsels present would be asked to set a problem, and then those round her would deal with it to the best of their ability. Love, which is comparatively seldom discussed in any abstruse or impersonal way by the modern girl and her companions, was a very favorite theme; and as to the type of love question which interested our medieval maiden two or three examples may be given.

"Is it easier to feign love than to hide it?"

"Which is easier, to win love or to keep it?"

"How does a miser's avarice affect his love?"

"Is the knight who is in love more likely to show bravery on the field of battle, or will his love make him a coward?" Such were the problems set with earnestness by the medieval maiden.

These discussions sometimes took place before a circle of interested listeners, between a noble damsel and a youth who was supposed to be learned in the subtleties of the tender passion; and it is on record that so interesting and moving did these conversations become at times that the on-lookers shed tears! Such word tournaments often took place after great family festivals, and formed part of the entertainment of the guests.

The Quality Girl.

She is none other than the strictly up-to-date business woman. D. C. Larson, writing in the Progress Magazine, says:

It is necessary to be attractive as well as competent; and to be both you should aim to be a quality girl. Many a faithful girl has been left in the rear because she neglected her personal appearance; and many a girl whose appearance received the best of attention has failed to realize her ideal because she did not give expression to her best. Your appearance depends largely upon what you put on, but real quality comes from what you are, how you act, how you conduct yourself, how you express yourself, and how you have improved all those things in your nature that can be expressed. To be a quality girl, therefore, in the truest sense of that term, it is necessary to do your best, be your best and appear your best.

Thousands of good positions are open to the quality girl, and thousands of desirable young men are looking for just such girls to become their wives. Be a quality girl and you need not be disturbed about the future. You may have good positions in the world's work as long as you like, and you may have a worthy husband and good home whenever you like.

Care of the Family Pillows.

Eight or ten hours spent upon the family supply of pillows will prove anything but a waste of time. Although the busy housewife may gasp at the thought, if she be as wise as she is busy she will recognize the truth and act accordingly. Pillows require beating with a stout rattan beater, which will neither cut the seam nor wear the ticking. If done on a dry, sunny day this will clear out a goodly supply of dust.

Scrubbing is sometimes resorted to when the old ticking covers are still firm and strong enough for continued use. With a hand brush a liberal supply of soapy lather is rubbed into the case, which is spread out on a table, preferably outdoors. After a forceful scrubbing it is rinsed in several clear waters and thoroughly dried in the sun.

"Raising" Names.

While walking through Academy street the other day, says the Newark News, Joseph A. Beecher was "braced" by two colored boys about seven years old, who asked: "Got any cigarette pictures, mister?" Explaining that he did not indulge, the lawyer asked the boys their names. "Johnsing," was the reply; "we're twins." "Well, what are your first names?" Insisted the amused questioner. "Mah name," answered one, "is Soda and his name," pointing to the other, "is Saleratus. Mah done lose all de others and she give us names she find successful in raisin'."

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TWELVE KILLED IN EXPLOSION

New York Central Power House Completely Wrecked.

Trolley Car Hurled on Top of Auto By Blast—Children in Hospital Narrowly Escape.

New York, Dec. 19.—Twelve persons were killed, two of them women, and 30 were injured in a double explosion of gas and dynamite in the new electric power house of the New York Central Railroad, shortly after 8 o'clock this morning.

The force of the explosion shattered hundreds of windows in the big hotels and apartment houses in the neighborhood of the railroad terminal, causing alarm among the guests. The dynamite blast picked up a northbound trolley car, lifted it in the air and sent it crashing down upon an automobile which was passing along the other side of the street. Four of the passengers were killed, and every one in the car was injured.

The railroad service was only temporarily interrupted. The new sub-station power house, where the explosion occurred, is at Fifth street and Lexington avenue, which is half a dozen blocks north of the Grand Central station.

The explosion partly wrecked the engine house near by and prevented the firemen from getting their apparatus into the street. Monsignors La Pette and Hayes and Fathers O'Connor, McQuade, Sinnott and Byrnes, of St. Patrick's Cathedral, hurried to the scene and administered the last rites of the church to the more seriously injured.

At the postoffice substation at Fortieth and Madison avenues, the explosion slightly injured several clerks and threw the mail all over the floor. In the New York Nursery and Child's Hospital ceilings were partly shaken down, and the windows broken, but fortunately none of the 300 children there was badly injured.

The power house, which is built of stone and brick, and is six stories high, took fire after the explosion, and the interior was practically burned out. Just what caused the double explosion may probably never be known. Fortunately for the thousands of commuters on the New York Central lines, the force of the dynamite blasts was directed in an opposite direction from the railroad tracks, otherwise the loaded incoming trains might have been wrecked.

Officials of the railroad learned that there were many workmen in the building at the time of the explosion, and that but few of these had been accounted for. In the Bible Teachers' Training School, on Lexington avenue, directly opposite the power house, 125 men and women who were on their way to breakfast, were thrown to the floor by the blast. Many of the men and women were injured, and several of them were taken to hospitals. All the windows in the building were blown in and the ceilings fell.

The damage to the power house and other buildings has not been estimated, but it was stated that it will likely exceed \$500,000.

The employes of the railroad have been unable thus far definitely to assign the cause of the explosion, but it is believed a large quantity of dynamite stored in magazines close to the substation was responsible for the greater part of the damage.

Wireless Stops Train.

Ottawa, Canada.—Drawing a train of twelve cars and rushing over the rails at a speed of forty-five miles an hour on a stretch of track near the city of Toronto, a powerful engine on the Canadian Pacific railway service was brought to a quick standstill, with the throttle wide open, and the engineer standing in his cab, a mere spectator, like those present with him to view the wonder.

The brakes had been applied on the big locomotive and train of cars by a wireless wave of electricity. It seemed as if a giant had seized the equipment and held it with ease.

Experiments with a wireless train-control system have been quietly conducted by the Canadian Pacific Railway company since last May, and this demonstration was the culmination of a long series of successful tests.

Balloonist's Body Found.

Bremen.—A fishing cutter has found in the North Sea the body of Lieutenant Lange, pilot of the balloon Saar. The Saar and eight other balloons started in a race from Essen-on-the-Ruhr, Rhennish Prussia, November 13. Seven of the balloons made safe landings the following day and later the Hessen descended in North Germany. The Saar never was heard from again, although the 22 German torpedo boats and other craft watched the North Sea for several days. Lieutenant Lange, Lieutenant Rommeler and a civilian, Herr Zimmerman, were on board.

Chinese Royalty Balks.

Pekin.—The throne has issued an edict refusing to create a constitutional cabinet in compliance with a memorial recently presented by the national assembly and also declining to accept the resignations of the grand councilors. The imperial senate also adopted a resolution praying for the immediate creation of a cabinet, and it was believed the throne had decided to accede. The national assembly will soon meet and the whole subject will be discussed.

Hebrews Are to Convene.

New York.—Theodore Roosevelt, Mayor Gaynor, Oscar S. Strauss, Judge Josiah Cohen of Pittsburgh, and Dr. David Phillipson of Cincinnati will address the twenty-second conference of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations to be held here on January 16 to 19 inclusive.