

HORRIBLE DISASTER AT SEA

Over Two Hundred Lives Lost Off Finistere.

ONLY TWO COATS LOWERED

seemingly a Case of Careless Navigation—Only Three Lives Saved—Twenty-five Bodies Have Been Recovered.

Brest, France, June 22.—Details are slowly being obtained of the loss of the Castle liner Drummond Castle, bound from Cape Town to London with 144 passengers and 103 officers and men.

The steamer was going at full speed shortly before midnight on Tuesday, June 16, heading around Finistere, from the Bay of Biscay, and making the chops of the British channel.

Off Finistere is the island of Ushant, about twenty-six miles northwest of here, in a group of thirty islands. The Drummond Castle, to steer a safe course, should have been away outside Ushant, upon which island is the light house and signal station, but for some reason, not satisfactorily explained, the steamship headed inside Ushant.

Between that point and the mainland of France is a line of islands, including Molene and Leconquer, connected by ridges of rock with each other. At the different places there are reefs, between which vessels pass with safety, but between Ushant and Molene, the latter island being half way to the mainland, is a sunken reef of rock with deep water on both sides of it and covered in parts even during the lowest tides. It was on this ridge that the Drummond Castle struck while going at full speed. The steamer must have struck so as to tear a big rent in her bottom from stem to stern, thus filling the water tight compartments almost immediately and sending her to the bottom on the other side of the reef in about three minutes.

Only two boats were lowered after the Castle first struck. One capsized, and only three men were saved out of the 247 people on board. The British second-class cruiser Sybille, which was off Ushant at the time of the disaster, heard the signals of distress and sent boats to the rescue, but without avail.

Of the saved, two men were picked up floating on the wreckage by fishermen from the mainland. A man named Marquardt reached Molene island. About ten bodies have already been recovered off Ushant.

At the time the Drummond Castle struck the reef a high southwest wind was blowing, and it was raining and foggy, about the worst condition possible for approaching that part of the coast. Marquardt says Captain Pierce had just gone to the cabin for a brief rest when a terrible shock caused the Drummond Castle to quiver as if shaken by a dynamite explosion. This was followed by a horrible grating, rasping sound, the noise of in-rushing water and the cries of passengers.

The commanding officers ordered all hands to clear away the boats for lowering, but the rents in the steamer were so wide and deep that but few passengers had time to scramble upon deck before she gave two or three heavy rolls, then an awful lurch, accompanied by some interior explosions, and sank.

Marquardt, contrary to the reports of the other two seamen rescued, said the steamship went down so suddenly there was no time even to launch one boat, much less two, and even if the boat had been launched, the seas were running so high and in such rapid succession (a peculiarity of the seas upon that part of the French coast) that she would have been promptly swamped. Some passengers, however, succeeded in fastening life belts around themselves, some bodies washed ashore being so provided. A tug just returned from Molene island reports that the bodies of twenty-five victims of the wreck have been washed ashore there.

Northwest Lands.

Washington, June 22.—In the case of the Warner Valley Stock Company, appellant, against Secretary of the Interior Hoke Smith and Commissioner S. W. Lamoreux, of the land office, the judgment of the lower court has been affirmed by the district court of appeals. The company loses. The company claimed the title to certain lands under grant from the state of Oregon, swamp lands, by virtue of an act of March 2, 1860, extending the provisions of the Arkansas swamp lands act of September 28, 1850, to Oregon. Appeal was made by the company from a decree sustaining the demurrer to an amended bill of the appellant's bill for an injunction against the appellees. The appellant company prayed that the appellees be restrained from exercising further jurisdiction relative to the disposition of the lands in controversy, and from interfering with the company's possession of the lands; and that the secretary be required to issue patent. If the case is not taken to the supreme court the company is finally defeated by the action of the court of appeals.

Only one person in 1,000 dies from old age.

FIFTY-FOURTH CONGRESS.

Resume of the Important Business of the Session.

The first session of the Fifty-fourth congress which has closed, enjoys the distinction of being the shortest "long" session for a period of thirty years. Of the measures which become laws, the most important from an international standpoint, was the bill creating the commission "to determine the true divisional line between Venezuela and British Guiana." Of scarcely less general interest were the bills prohibiting prizefighting in the territories; permitting appointments in the navy and army of former United States officers who served in the rebellion and making one year's residence in a territory a prerequisite to obtaining a divorce there.

Excepting these, however, the remainder of the 225 bills and resolutions which received the president's approval were not of a character to deserve extended mention. The more important were the bills incorporating the national society of the Daughters of the Revolution, opening the forest reservations in Colorado, for the location of mining claims; regulating proof of death in pension cases; providing for a naval training school in San Francisco harbor; making it unlawful to shoot at any railway train or any person thereon, or to throw missiles into such train, and repealing clause 61 of the tariff law providing for a rebate on alcohol used in the arts.

If the session, however, was conspicuous by reason of its brevity and the limited number of important laws enacted, it resulted in the introduction of a larger number of bills in the house during any similar period for a quarter of a century. The total number of bills introduced during the entire last congress was 8,987, of which 4,405 were introduced during the first session, which corresponds to the session now closed and in which latter the aggregate reached 9,500. Of these 2,300 were favorably reported by the committees to whom they were referred, and scores of them are likely to be brought to the attention of the house next winter.

The Nicaragua bill was one of these measures. After many months of consideration in the committee, it received a favorable report in the face of an absolute certainty that it would not be taken up during this session. The bill to liquidate the indebtedness of the Pacific railways to the government is another far-reaching measure, which was also upon the calendar with a favorable report, but which for prudential reasons will continue to slumber there.

The popular interest in the Cuban revolution was shown in the large number of resolutions, more than fifty in all, that were introduced and referred to the committee on foreign affairs. After careful consideration, a concurrent resolution was reported, for which was subsequently substituted, in conference, the senate resolution expressing the sympathy of the United States with the insurgents, recognizing their belligerency and calling upon the president to use his good offices to secure the independence of the island.

Measures for which there has been a widespread demand that have passed the house and will probably receive consideration from the senate next session, include the bankruptcy bill, the McCall bill, providing an educational test for immigrants, the labor commission and labor arbitration bills and the bill simplifying the rules of the pension office so as to facilitate the adjustment of private pension cases.

The early weeks of the session were a busy period for the ways and means committee. Of the 187 measures referred to it, thirty were acted upon. Two of the greatest importance were the bond and revenue bills. The bond bill passed the house, was sent to the senate and returned with the addition of an amendment providing for the free coinage of silver. The revenue bill died in the senate committee on finance. Among other measures of interest reported by the ways and means committee were the bills permitting the killing of all the fur seals in Alaskan waters; the "filled cheese" bill and the bill amending the law permitting a rebate on alcohol used in the arts.

The committee on invalid pensions broke all previous records for work. Upwards of 2,800 bills were referred to it, of which 700 private bills were reported to the house. Among the measures reported in addition to those which passed the house, were bills giving members of state militia a pensionable status; granting pensions to remarried war widows; broadening the scope of the law pensioning army nurses; increasing the pensions of those who lost limbs in the service and providing for the payment of pensions by check.

The pensions committee, which deals with a different class of measures from those which are referred to the invalid pensions committee, disposed of 240 of the 600 bills referred to them.

The finance committee, to which was referred 105 different measures, has succeeded in getting through the senate but three of any importance that have become laws—the filled cheese bill; the amendment to the administrative feature of the tariff act permitting express companies to pay the duty on packages valued at not more than \$500.

MORE ATROCITIES.

Murderous Spaniards Continue Their Deadly Work.

New York, June 24.—The American three-masted schooner Mabel Hooper, which has just arrived brings news of fresh atrocities by the Spanish troops in Cuba. The Spanish commander of Sagua had orders from Havana to see to it that all the tobacco planted near that place should be taken to that city. A large plantation near that place is owned by Mr. Gonzales, said to be an American citizen. The tobacco from his place had not been moved for the reason that all his horses had been stolen by the Spanish soldiers. He was summoned before the commander and asked why he did not move his crop. He gave his reason, which the commander said was satisfactory, and turned him over to a lieutenant with instructions to return him. The lieutenant did so, but on arriving at his plantation the lieutenant ordered him in his house and then set fire to it. The smoke soon compelled Gonzales, his wife and five children to leave the house, and as they walked out of the rear door, the front of the building being in flames, all were shot down. Gomez, the insurgent leader, arrived on the scene a few days later, and when he was told how Gonzales and his family had been murdered, he became furious.

Brutal Murder of an Aged Pensioner.

Shelbyville, Ind., June 24.—Milton Boley, an aged pensioner, came to this city from his home, seven miles north of here, and drew \$600 from a bank with which to pay off the balance due on his house. About dusk Boley started for home. He was waylaid by two men, who beat him with clubs and crushed his skull. They went through his pockets, and not finding the money returned to his house and demanded that Mrs. Boley inform them where the money was. She refused and after beating her in vain they held her over a natural gas blaze until she could not endure the torture longer. Blackened and blistered and covered with bruises she was compelled to reveal the hiding place of the money. Boley will die and there is little chance of his wife's recovery.

City Marshal Murdered.

Toledo, O., June 24.—City Marshal Scott Rees, of North Baltimore, was killed instantly today while attempting to arrest three robbers whom he caught in the act of endeavoring to effect an entrance into the village post-office.

Will Use Compressed Air.

Chicago, June 24.—Compressed air motors will be tried on street cars in Chicago for the first time July 1. The new motive power for street passenger transportation may find a permanent abode in this city if the test is successful. Should the motor demonstrate its efficiency, a battle royal will be begun between compressed air and electricity which may end in the abolishment of the trolley.

Silver Miners Want a Raise.

Leadville, Colo., June 22.—As a result of discontent and fruitless efforts for an adjustment extending over several months, 800 miners tonight walked out, owing to the refusal of certain silver mine managers to increase their wages from \$2.50 to \$3 per day. The situation is peculiar. Three large enterprises, known as the Smith-Moffat, the Small Hopes and the Welden, cannot afford, they say, to pay higher wages, but can afford to employ a large force at \$2.50 per day. Some other silver mines are paying \$3 per day, and the miners want all to pay this figure.

Russian Workmen Idle.

St. Petersburg, June 23.—There are 4,000 factory hands now on a strike. They are quiet and peaceable, but determined to obtain their demands. It is stated that 10,000 workmen in the province of Tver have resolved to go to the railway, when the czar returns to St. Petersburg, and stop the train and throw themselves on their knees to induce the emperor to receive a memorial of their grievances.

Excursionists Killed.

Fort Wayne, Ind., June 23.—This morning three excursion trains with 8,000 employees of the Pennsylvania railway shops and friends on board started for Rome City, to spend the day. Near Kendallville one of the trains broke in two. Two shopmen, Sam C. Henderson and G. F. Miller, were thrown from the platform and run over and killed.

Trouble on the Newfoundland Coast.

St. Johns, N. F., June 23.—Trouble has broken out on the part of the Newfoundland coast where the French have fishery rights, between the residents and the French fishermen, over the use of cod traps. The English cruiser Mohawk, guardship of the port, has been summoned to the scene.

Brooks' Comet Has Returned.

Cambridge, Mass., June 23.—A cable message from the European Union of Astronomers received by Messrs. Chandler and Ritchie announces the discovery of Brooks' periodical comet, on its return, by Javel, of the observatory at Nice.

MILITIA AND A MOB.

Troops Were Called Out to Prevent a Lynching.

Roseburg, Or., June 23.—Upon the request of the mayor, Governor Lord ordered out the militia here last night to protect prisoner James Dixon, who shot and killed Charles Rice, on the 14th, from mob violence. The order had the desired effect. The mob, hearing that the jail was well guarded, did not come. Sheriff Cathcart took the prisoner to Eugene for safe keeping on the north-bound overland. Having walked a short distance, Cathcart signaled the train, and getting on board with his prisoner, was soon beyond the reach of the would-be lynchers.

The first intimation that an attempt would be made to lynch Dixon was last night, when John Dixon, a brother of the murderer, rode into Roseburg and informed the sheriff that a large mob was forming at Blakesley's, the scene of the crime, with the intention of proceeding to Roseburg and demanding the prisoner.

The sheriff and his deputies at once made preparations for defending their charge, but at last, fearing that the mob would be too strong for them to cope with, a consultation was held with the mayor of the city, which resulted in a request being made upon Governor Lord for aid.

The crime for which Dixon is awaiting trial was the murder of Charles Rice at a ball game near Blakesley's, on last Sunday.

The two young men were old enemies, and their quarrel was reopened over a decision concerning the game, when, after a few hot words between them, Dixon drew a revolver and fired twice at Rice, both shots taking effect, and resulting in the instant death of the young man.

THE STRIKE IS OFF.

Fishermen's Union Has Formally Voted to Go to Work.

Astoria, June 23.—At a meeting of the fishermen's union, held tonight, under a call made for that purpose by the executive committee this afternoon, the strike was formally declared off, by a majority of 57, in a total vote of 450.

In anticipation of the action of the meeting, the men have been applying all day at the canneries for their nets. The militia have left for their homes. It is asserted by all the fishermen that the compromise comes at a late day, as few, if any fish have been coming into the river during the last few days. The catches last night were uniformly large, one of the Scandinavian Packing Company's men being paid \$162 for his night's work, while few of them delivered less than 2,000 pounds.

The appearance of the fish indicates that they have been in the river for some days at least, and it is predicted that as soon as all the boats are out, the river will quickly be cleared of fish, and small catches will be the rule until the July run comes.

Folly of a Driver.

Atlantic City, N. J., June 23.—Three men were instantly killed and a fourth probably fatally injured in a grade crossing accident at Absecon today. The dead are: George Huber, aged 60; Fred Huber, his son, 32, of Germania, this county, and Harry Henbeler, of Philadelphia. The injured man is George Sahl, of Gallo-way. The men were crossing the track in a wagon drawn by a pair of spirited horses when the accident occurred. Nearing the track, the driver attempted to beat the approaching Camden express train across the track. The train was running at the rate of sixty miles an hour. The Hubers were thrown under the wheels and ground to pieces. Henbeler was thrown against the station, with a horse upon him.

Uneasiness in Spain.

London, June 23.—A dispatch from Madrid to the Daily Mail says: The platform adopted in St. Louis causes great uneasiness in Spain, and it is feared a conflict with the United States has now almost a fixed date. The government has hastened to buy two 12,000 ton ironclads at Genoa, at a price which a few days ago was thought to be excessive. A great part of the loan of 100,000 pesetas made by Rothschilds on the Almadin quicksilver mines will probably be immediately applied to such warships as are now for sale. The government, responding to the undoubted national sentiment, and trusting probably to the help of other powers, seems resolved to resist American impositions.

Result of Skirmishes.

Havana, June 23.—As a result of skirmishes in Pinar del Rio, Havana and Santa Clara provinces, the insurgents have sustained a loss of nineteen killed, eleven wounded and four prisoners, while the troops had three killed and five wounded. On account of the alleged outrages committed throughout the country, many families are moving into the towns.

Monthly Revenue Statement.

Washington, June 23.—The monthly statement of the internal revenue bureau shows that during May, 1896, the receipts from all sources amounted to \$11,464,490, as compared with \$10,768,490 during May, 1895.

BRIEF PACIFIC COAST NEWS

A Resume of Events in the Northwest.

EVIDENCE OF STEADY GROWTH

News Gathered in All the Towns of Our Neighboring State.—Improvement Noted in All Industries.—Oregon.

Pendleton is to have its ordinances codified in book form.

A nugget weighing \$28 was recently found in the left fork of Galice creek.

The G. A. R. Eastern Oregon veterans will hold a reunion at Union, July 2, 3 and 4.

The express company at The Dalles has shipped up to date 13,975 pounds of strawberries to Montana and Portland.

The Albany creamery had to return an 8,000-pound order for butter, already having orders amounting to 21,000 pounds ahead, all it can fill in the time desired.

A gentleman in Independence, has a French rapier in his possession that was used by his grandfather in the Revolutionary war. He also has an old razor that bears the date mark of 1776.

The directors of the Garnd Ronde Valley Agricultural Society have prepared a speed programme for the fall meeting, which begins on Monday, September 28. The purses range from \$75 to \$150.

A large amount of wool is being moved to market, says the Prineville paper. It has been a backward spring about shearing, and many thousands of pounds of wool were lost on account of there being no grease in the wool.

The Prineville Review learns from reliable authority that there will be 250,000 yearling ewes bought in Eastern Oregon this summer and driven East, to be used for breeding purposes. Crook county will furnish a large share of them.

Since the waters of the John Day have receded it is found that the damage to the Canyon creek county road by reason of wash-outs is incalculable. Much work and plenty of dynamite will be required to make the grades passable.

All the property of the defunct Astoria & Portland Railroad Company was last week sold by sheriff Hare in Astoria to satisfy executions amounting to about \$164,000. The property was purchased by a representative of Edward Ehrman, a judgment creditor, for \$30,000, and is supposed to be in the interest of the Astoria & Columbia River railroad.

The law of Oregon provides when 100 citizens of a county petition the county court to have the question as to whether or not hogs shall run at large voted on, the court shall order the clerk to place the same upon the ballots at the next regular election. Such a petition was prepared, circulated and signed in Union county. The result is that a very large majority of the people of that county desire hogs shall not run at large.

Washington.

Work on the new cigar-shaped craft at Stella is progressing slowly.

The Pleasant Valley, Whatcom county, school building burned last week.

One hundred trainloads of grain have been ground to flour at Spokane since last September.

The Whatcom Zouaves are happy in the receipt of twenty-five stands of arms from the adjutant-general.

The Tacoma Morning Union has been awarded the contract for doing the city printing of Tacoma during the coming year.

Owing to the refusal of the Northern Pacific Railroad Company to pay its road tax in Chehalis county, many of the road districts will be short one-third of the money expected.

Federal surveyors are at work ascertaining the exact boundaries of the government reserves at Points Wilson and Marrowstone, and Admiralty Head, where the fortifications are to be built by the war department.

J. P. Carson and Eugene France, receivers of the Aberdeen bank, have paid off all of the bank's indebtedness, except about \$2,000, and expect to have that paid off and the affairs finally settled by the last of the month.

Klickitat county was made a part of the judicial district comprising the counties of Clark, Skamania and Cowlitz, by the last legislature, but several of the Klickitat people think the law is unconstitutional, and will take a test case to the supreme court and have it decided before election day.

It is now practically certain that the proposed reincorporation of the city of Port Townsend, which is to be submitted to the voters at a special election called for that purpose on June 29, will be favorably considered, and that the place will thereafter be known as a city of the third class, incorporated under the general laws of the state of Washington.