



# MINE EXPLOSION KILLS MANY

## FIFTEEN KNOWN TO BE SLAIN

### Deadly Gas Explosion Occurs in Century Mines in West Virginia--Feared Seventy-Five Men Are Killed By Catastrophe.

### PATHETIC SCENES ENACTED BY RELATIVES

AT PRESENT TIME FIFTEEN MEN ARE KNOWN TO BE DEAD--25 INJURED, AND BETWEEN 25 AND 75 MISSING--ENTOOBED MINERS' FAMILIES CROWD AROUND MOUTH OF PIT WAITING FOR RESCUE.

WHEELING, W. Va., March 23.—A report from the Century Mine at three o'clock this morning states that nine dead men have been recovered. Sixteen men overcome by gas were brought up. They have recovered.

FAIRMONT, W. Va., March 22.—Fifteen men are known to be dead, twenty-five injured and between twenty-five and seventy-five are missing and believed to be dead as the result of an explosion of gas in a shaft of the Century Coal Company at Century, a mining town fifty miles south of Fairmont.

Ward, who was still in the mine, sent out word that owing to the prevalence of gas he was undecided whether to push work into the sub-headings for an hour or so.

The mine is being rapidly freed from gas and the rescue work will be pushed throughout the night.

After the explosion, officials began a canvass to ascertain the number of men on the surface. This resulted in finding 160, but it is believed many more are outside, who are not accounted for. If this is not true, then seventy-five men are in the mine with little hope of being alive.

The families of the miners quickly gathered at the opening and the pathetic scenes always witnessed at such accidents were enacted. Several foreign women insisted on going into the mine and were prevented only by force. Many women were still hovering around the opening at midnight notwithstanding the weather is bitter cold.

### TWO NEW VESSELS FOR ASTORIA

WASHINGTON, March 22.—The United States Lighthouse Board today submitted a report urging an appropriation of \$150,000 for a Columbia River light vessel and \$130,000 for a light-house tender at Astoria, Oregon. The new lighthouse tender will take the place of the Manzanita.

### RATE BILL AGAIN.

Senate Continues Arguments Over Rate Legislation.

WASHINGTON, March 22.—The railroad rate bill occupied practically all the time of the Senate today. Lodge spoke on the advocacy of his amendment, enlarging on the inter-state commerce commission and in doing so replied sharply to the recent utterances of Commissioner Prouty. Spooner devoted his attention to the constitutional powers of inferior courts, contending that these courts could not be destroyed nor their jurisdiction taken from them. He engaged in a controversy with Rayner, over the power of Congress to deprive the courts of the privilege of suspending the findings of the inter-state commerce commission and the discussion closed with the usual exchange of courtesies between Spooner and Tillman.

### PATTISON VERY ILL.

COLUMBUS, March 22.—Although Governor Pattison is reported to be much improved in an official bulletin issued by his physicians tonight, the belief prevails that his condition is very grave. The physicians absolutely refuse to discuss the governor's condition, and all that is known to the public up to this time regarding the nature of the governor's illness is that he is suffering from nervous prostration.

## LETTER FROM DEAD WANT LEGISLATION

### McCall Writes Letter to Orr Before Dying.

### TELLSHOW HAMILTON WORKED

States That He Employed Hamilton to Attend to Taxation and Legislation Matters of the New York Life Insurance Company.

NEW YORK, March 22.—The day before he died, February 16th, former President McCall, of the New York Life, wrote a letter to Alexander E. Orr, president of that company relative to the conditions under which Andrew D. Hamilton was employed. The letter states McCall realizes he had but a slight chance to recover, and wishes the conditions known as he would tell them if he were here to be heard. He says he employed Hamilton in 1895 to attend to matters of taxation and legislation in the United States and foreign countries. Hamilton refused to accept the duty unless it was understood that no moneys advanced him be accounted for. McCall adds that whether his action was legal or not will be left to others to decide. McCall, however, believes it was and he was clothed with full power to so act and the interests of the company demanded that such steps be taken.

### CANNOT AGREE.

Operators and Miners Far From Reaching Agreement.

Indianapolis, March 22.—After being in session the greater part of the day the joint scale committee of operators and mine workers, adjourned until tomorrow, divided on every point made during the day by either side. They are no nearer an agreement than on February 2nd, when the former joint committee disagreed and adjourned. Every indication today pointed to a disagreement tomorrow and the convening of the joint conference of operators and mine workers to receive the committee's reports to that effect.

### FOUND GUILTY.

NEW YORK, March 22.—Robert Spriggs, colored, the proprietor of a resort where it is alleged white women were detained against their will, was found guilty today on a charge of abduction. The testimony of women witnesses was to the effect that they had, while intoxicated, been taken to Sprigg's resort and there, behind barred windows and doors, been held prisoners. One woman testified she had been an inmate of the house for five years.

### HOUSE WRANGLES.

Argues Over Statehood Measure For Short Time.

WASHINGTON, March 22.—The statehood bill was taken from the speaker's table today, and placed in the hands of three selected conferees and the request made of the Senate for a conference. The action was not accomplished without many words and votes. It developed however, that there were votes enough to carry out the program of the leaders. Then followed forty minutes of fiery speeches, some of which afforded much amusement. The remainder of the day was devoted to the legislative appropriation bill.

### THIEF PLEADS GUILTY.

TORONTO, March 22.—F. S. G. Bannell, teller of the Crown Bank, charged with stealing \$40,000 of the bank's funds, pleaded guilty yesterday. Sentence was deferred. His wife, Nora, pleaded not guilty to the charge of receiving stolen money, and will be tried later.

### Labor Party Determined to Remedy Grievances.

President Gompers Says if Congress Will Not Remedy Labor Evils, Labor Party Will Elect Other Men Who Will.

WASHINGTON, March 22.—The executive council of the American Federation of Labor today discussed the responses of President Roosevelt and Speaker Cannon to the bill of grievances presented by them yesterday regarding legislation affecting the labor interests. President Gompers said tonight if Congress fails to remedy the grievances, the Federation will appeal directly to the people.

## ROOSEVELT SUGGESTS A SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTE

### President Offers Suggestion of Mixed Police At All Moroccan Ports as Settlement of Franco-German Controversy Over Morocco.

### HOPE FOR SUCCESSFUL ENDING IS BRIGHTER

PARIS TEMPS' ALGERIAS CORRESPONDENT STATES THAT ROOSEVELT OFFERS NEW PROPOSITION TO CONFERENCE--FRANCE, HOWEVER, BELIEVES THE SUGGESTION WILL NOT BE SATISFACTORY TO CONFERENCE.

PARIS, March 22.—The suggestion of a mixed police at all the Moroccan ports emanated from President Roosevelt, according to the Temps' Algerias correspondent. He says the idea is to avoid rivalry or the acquisition of special spheres of influence. The correspondent adds:

"The intention of this proposed solution may be excellent, but it is not practical and full of danger."

Commenting on the dispatch, the Temps gives Roosevelt full credit for a desire to preserve the purity of the Franco-Spanish character of the police mandate, but points out that the proposition will be acceptable neither to France or Spain. Personal differences between the French and Spanish officers, the paper says, would undermine the character of the police organization and leave the Moroccan government open to take advantage of these rivalries in order to continue the condition of anarchy.

### Meeting Postponed.

ALGERIAS, March 22.—Von Radewitz, the German representative, was slightly indisposed today, and as a consequence, the meetings of the delegates which were to have been held today, were postponed until Saturday next, when the new Austrian police proposition will be presented. Ambassador White, Sir Arthur Nicholson, and Count Welsersheimb, respectively American, British and Austrian delegates, conferred during the day, but the result is not known. There is an impression, however, that it was satisfactory and confidence is felt that the way is being paved for an early agreement. It is understood fresh Austrian proposals formed the subject of discussion, and though the nature of the proposals was not officially stated, it is believed they contain a revised suggestion for a mixed police at all the Moroccan ports including Casa Blanca, instead of French officers controlling four ports and Spaniards four. The French and Spanish make no direct objection to the plan, but allege it will prove inefficacious. Should the remainder of the delegates, including the Germans, appear determined upon such a solution, it is probable France and Spain will suggest that it be limited to Tangier, and that the other ports be divided.

### THE MIXED POLICE SCHEME WHICH WILL BE PROPOSED BY AMBASSADOR WHITE UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT APPEARS TO BE THE SOLUTION OF THE FRANCO-GERMAN CONTROVERSY WITH THE GREATEST POSSIBLE CHANCE OF SUCCESS. IT IS STATED IN INFLUENTIAL CIRCLES THAT THE DELEGATES HAVE DECIDED TO PLACE TANGIER AND NOGADOR UNDER MIXED CONTROL, THE OTHER PORTS TO BE DIVIDED, FRANCE AND SPAIN EACH TAKING THREE, WITH AN AUSTRIAN INSPECTING OFFICER WHO WILL REPORT MONTHLY TO THE SULTAN AND TO THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS AT TANGIER.

### HORRIBLE DEATH.

HOOD RIVER, Ore., March 22.—An unknown man has been found near a camp fire on the north bank railroad roasted to death. In company with two other men he had been at Lyle's last night drinking heavily, and, according to the story of his companions, they procured a bottle of whisky and went down to the camp, where they built a big fire and laid down beside it to sleep. After sleeping for a time two of the men went back to Lyle, leaving their companion asleep. In the early morning when they returned they were horrified to find that he had rolled into the fire and had been burned almost to a crisp. The men are Russian Finns, and had been employed by the railroad but a short time.

## AUSTRIA WILL NOT AGREE TO AMERICAN REQUEST

VIENNA, March 22.—Secretary Rives of the American embassy informed the foreign office that Bellamy Storer, the retiring American ambassador, ceased connection with the embassy on March 19th, and requested the Austro-Hungarian government to agree to the appointment of Charles S. Francis immediately. This, the foreign office declares, is a most unusual proceeding. According to European diplomatic traditions Storer remains ambassador until the presentation of his letters of recall, either by himself or his successor, and until this is done it must regard Storer as the American ambassador.

### TO ABANDON MARQUAM.

PORTLAND, March 22.—Calvin Heilig has secured a five-years' lease, beginning April 1, on the Belasco Theater from Belasco, Mayer & Co., will abandon the Marquam Grand and will take the Klaw & Erlanger attractions to the Washington-street house. The Marquam will be converted into a store and office building.

### TERRIBLE STORM RAGING.

SEATTLE, March 22.—Fishing schooners arriving here report terrible gales off Cape Flattery and Northward to the Alaskan coast. It is feared several of the fleet are wrecked.

## SNOW BLOCKADE BROKEN ON DENVER & RIO GRANDE

DURANGO, Colo., March 22.—The snow blockade which has existed since March 11th on the Denver and Rio Grande was broken today, but conditions on the Rio Grande Southern and Silverton branch of the Denver and Rio Grande are unchanged. The train which has been snow-bound in Cumbres Pass

since March 10th reached Alamosa today. After the train became stalled the snow continued falling until it lay on a level higher than the smokestack of the locomotive. The railroad employees carried provisions to the imprisoned passengers on snowshoes. Owing to the high altitude several passengers became sick.