

HUNDREDS OF MINERS IN ROARING FURNACE

Eleven Men of 300 in Colliery Near Leigh, England, Escape; Others Have Almost Certainly Perished—20 Bodies Out—One Chance for Men in Mine.

(United Press Leased Wire.) Manchester, Dec. 21.—Two hundred and eighty-nine out of 300 miners working in the Little Hulton company's Pretoria mine near Leigh, are believed to have been killed in an explosion and fire that has turned the workings into a furnace.

Eleven of those below the surface of the earth when the disaster occurred escaped. The others were trapped. Rescuers have brought out the charred and mangled bodies of 20. Since these bodies were found close to the mouth of the main entrance, it is believed all the other miners must have perished.

The explosion was terrific and it is believed its force and the fire which burst out almost immediately afterward have demolished the interior workings. Less than five minutes after the explosion flames were shooting 80 feet above the main entrance. The only men who escaped were leaving the mine just as the accident occurred.

Fire All Through the Mine.
The flames appeared to spread to all parts of the mine and the heat thrown out from the main entrance was so intense that those who rushed to the rescue when the explosion occurred were forced back. They fell back just as a burst of flames shot from the shaft.

Although every effort was made to smother the fire, little could be done and some time elapsed before the rescuers could again approach the main shaft. After a time the blast of flame entered the shaft, only to find that the inner workings were burning fiercely and that the intolerable heat and the deadly gases prevented any rescue work. The explosion jammed the cages in the shafts and interfered with the ventilating apparatus.

Bodies of 20 Miners Taken Out.
With the first news of the accident friends and relatives of the men em-

ployed in the mine rushed to the scene. When the flames poured out of the main shaft many women fainted and were carried away. Hundreds of persons were crowded around the pit mouth by the time the fire began to subside, and the efforts of the rescue parties to enter the workings were hampered. The people about the shaft were restrained with the greatest difficulty.

When the fire had receded far enough to permit an attempt, a small rescue party entered the shaft. Not far from the entrance the bodies of 20 men were discovered. They were lifted out and borne away to an improvised morgue to await identification.

Faint Hope for Imprisoned Men.
The rescuers found the mine blocked and could penetrate no farther. They were forced to retreat. A larger rescue party is being organized and will endeavor to force its way farther into the mine before night. The work is very dangerous as the fire is still raging in the workings and it is feared further explosions may occur.

The cause of the explosion has not been determined. Although the extent of the fire has not been fully ascertained, it is believed the whole interior of the mine is in flames. Mine officials hope that the men may have escaped to some gallery that is not burning and have waited themselves in. This, it is believed, is the only chance that any one in the mine escaped death.

Among the dead are many boys who were employed as loaders and helpers. A majority of the bodies placed in the temporary morgue near the workings could not be identified, owing to the action of the flames. Nearly all were burned beyond recognition. One survivor, badly injured, who was taken from the mine this afternoon, was unable to account for the explosion.

A roll call by sections this afternoon (Continued on Page Three.)

Fights for Millions



Beatrice Anita Baldwin Turnbull.

(United Press Leased Wire.) Los Angeles, Cal., Dec. 21.—Although Mrs. Lillian Ashley Turnbull yesterday afternoon completed her second day on the witness stand in the hearing of a suit brought by her daughter, Beatrice Anita Turnbull, to break the will of the late E. J. "Lucky" Baldwin, the attorneys defending the instrument did not finish their cross-examination and Mrs. Turnbull is to be called again on the reconvening of court at 2 o'clock this afternoon.

Mrs. Turnbull claims for her daughter \$2,000,000 of the \$12,000,000 Baldwin estate. The point of the examination is which of the two Mrs. Turnbull has made against Baldwin is true and correct—the one of seduction, when an admission of such a marriage by contract would have nullified her contention, or the one now on trial, that Baldwin had married Lillian Ashley by contract and that Miss Beatrice Anita Turnbull, the pretty 7-year-old plain life in the case, was the child of that union.

HILL LINES TO BE MERGED INTO ONE GREAT COMPANY

Portland Will Be Headquarters of Oregon System, With J. F. Stevens in Full Control; Plans Taking Shape.

MAY BUILD UNION DEPOT ON WEST SIDE

Step Towards Consolidation Was Increase of Capital Stock of Oregon Trunk.

James J. Hill's lines in Oregon will soon be grouped into one tremendous company, the headquarters of which will be in Portland and the executive head of which will be John F. Stevens.

Accountants have been at work for several weeks arranging the books of the Spokane, Portland & Seattle, the Oregon Trunk, the Oregon Electric, the United Railways and the Astoria & Columbia River railway in preparation for the merger which will take place within a month.

It is said that no name for the holding company has been decided upon, but that probably it will take that of one of the incorporations to be merged into it.

A step towards the consolidation of the various Hill lines in Oregon was taken last week when the capital stock of the Oregon Trunk Line was increased from \$5,000,000 to \$20,000,000.

Stevens Goes East.
Mr. Stevens went east yesterday and will spend Christmas in Chicago with his son. Of the attorneys for the road, Charles H. Carey is in Chicago today and will arrive in Portland Sunday while James E. Keary will leave for St. Paul Monday. No incorporation papers will be drawn up and filed until both the executive and legal heads of the lines return to Portland.

Following the example set them by the Harriman lines, the new company merged into one holding company to be known as the Oregon & Washington Railroad & Navigation company, the Hill officials believe they will see their Oregon holdings into much better shape for any possible future consolidation. It is expected the capitalization of the lines will equal that of the Harriman properties, at least.

Will Build Depot.
A very probable consequence of the merging of the lines will be the construction of a union station by Hill on the site of the present North Bank station in Hoyt street and the filling in of a portion of Guild's lake to be used as a common terminal yard for the various Hill lines with the exception of the Northern Pacific.

It is considered unlikely the Northern Pacific will ever leave the union station, or the Northern Pacific Terminal company as it is called, even if the Hill line do unite in their own union station. Hill's control over the Northern Pacific has never been any too sure and all of his building and consolidation in the northwest have been made with an eye to fortifying himself for any possible loss of that transcontinental system. With it as a holder, though a minority one, in the Northern Pacific Terminal company, he is very well satisfied. It gives him a finger in the Harriman terminal pie and in addition he will have the terminals of his own consolidated lines. Those who talked with J. J. Hill following his stay in Portland last week, feel that the "Empire Builder" is tolerably well satisfied with his position in Portland, particularly as its extent is just beginning to become known.

That the school board overlooked a good many people is the fact that although the school census shows a gain of 9 1/2 per cent in the population of the district, over that of last year, the board has asked for an increase of 60 per cent in the amount of money required to run the schools. One year ago the school census showed a gain of 4 1/2 per cent and the board asked the tax payers for 13 1/2 per cent more money with which to maintain the schools.

Mr. Sigler figures that the levy made by the school board of 6 1/2 mills will yield \$1,850,000, instead of the \$1,635,700 which the board estimated would be required to be raised by the special school tax.

Experts' Reduction.
"In making the school tax levy the school board overlooked the fact that the state tax commission had not yet assessed the public service corporations and railroads in Multnomah county," continued Mr. Sigler. "The board took my assessment of about \$25,000,000 as a basis upon which to levy the assessment and found that the levy would have to be placed at 6 1/2 mills. My estimate is that the five-line tax-commission will add about \$25,000,000 to this sum as the value of the railroads and public service corporations in school district No. 1, which will raise the value of the assessable property in the district to \$12,000,000. The addition of this sum to my assessment, which was used by

the school board for 1911 that will make

the 1910 Output of Portland's Factories Exceeds \$40,000,000. Industrial Situation is Reviewed in Detail.

YEAR'S END EDITION OF THE JOURNAL

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Will Direct Affairs of Big Company



John F. Stevens, Who Is Hill's Chief in Oregon.

MANSLAUGHTER IS VERDICT IN TRIAL OF CARRIE KERSH

Lane Juror Fights 48 Hours to Save Her Life, Finally Consenting to Lesser Degree; Woman Collapses.

Mrs. Carrie Kersh, charged jointly with Jesse P. Webb with killing W. A. Johnson last June in the New Grand Central hotel and attempting to abduct his body out of town in a trunk, was found guilty of manslaughter last evening by a jury in the circuit court, after the 15 men had deliberated 72 hours. For 48 hours D. G. Tomasin, 389 Hancock street, stood against the other 14 men and fought for an acquittal of the woman. He did this on the contention that the state had not proven her guilt as charged in the indictment. The penalty under the law is imprisonment in the penitentiary for from one to 15 years.

When the jury took the case last Saturday evening at 5 o'clock, the first ballot showed nine men for murder in the first degree, and three for acquittal. This position was kept until Sunday morning, when one of the jurors was won over to the murder verdict. This left two men fighting against 10. The last vote was taken yesterday afternoon shortly before 4 o'clock, when the men voted on a manslaughter verdict.

SAYS SCHOOL BOARD MISSED \$22,000,000 IN ASSESSMENTS IN FIXING LEVY FOR TAXES

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CHRISTMAS GIFTS TO EMPLOYEES IN CHICAGO HEAVY

Increase of Outward Signs of Inward Grace of "Loosen Up"—Custom of Giving the Boss Something Declining.

(United Press Leased Wire.) Chicago, Dec. 21.—The gifts made by Chicago concerns to their employees will total the monumental sum of \$1,800,000 this Christmas, a manifestation of the spirit of "good will toward men" of more than usual moment. The big house of corporation that does not remember its employees nowadays is the exception. In some cases the profit-sharing distribution takes place at Christmas. The "harvesters trust" will distribute half a million dollars under that plan. Armour & company will distribute bonuses and salary increases totaling \$300,000. Most of the banks give gold pieces, others turkeys, and some both to their employees. The big mail order houses, among the biggest money makers of all Chicago concerns, "loosen up" in one case with candy for the girls and cigars for the men, in another with a turkey and a dinner for each of 5000 employees. The custom of gifts from employees to their bosses is being discontinued, although in some places officious persons with suggestion lists gather up the surplus small change of "the force" (Continued on Page Three.)

GAVE-IN CATCHES FIVE LABORERS

One Man Killed, Four Injured on Salt Lake Road in Southern California.

(United Press Leased Wire.) San Bernardino, Cal., Dec. 21.—One man is dead and four are suffering from injuries received in a cave-in on a branch of the Salt Lake road at Meadow Valley. G. C. McCarthy was killed instantly. The injured are: R. E. Smalley, W. J. Wilson, R. Campbell and J. Gustus.

ORDINANCE LEVYING TAX OF SIX MILLS IS PASSED BY COUNCIL

Without discussion and by unanimous vote, the city council this morning passed an ordinance fixing the municipal tax levy for 1911 at 6 mills. This action of the council followed exactly the recommendations of the ways and means committee and substantially carries out the annual budget prepared by Mayor Sigmund.

The tax levy of 6 mills will raise approximately \$1,848,000. This will be an increase in revenue of nearly 25 per cent over the levy of 1910, which was 4 1/2 mills.

WALL COLLAPSES BURYING FIREMEN AND SPECTATORS

Fireman and Bystander Killed and Ten Firemen Severely Injured When Factory at Cincinnati Burns.

DAMAGE TO PROPERTY ESTIMATED \$2,000,000

Krippendorf-O'Neill Shoe Factory Destroyed; Six Others Sustain Damage.

(United Press Leased Wire.) Cincinnati, Ohio, Dec. 21.—A fireman and a spectator were killed and 10 firemen were severely injured in a fire today that did \$2,000,000 damage. The killed and injured were caught under the falling walls of the Krippendorf-O'Neill shoe company's factory. Two engine companies were buried under tons of debris.

The dead: Robert Greer, fireman. Unidentified boy, 16 years old. The fire broke out early today in the Krippendorf factory.

The flames spread rapidly. The Krippendorf building and the factory of the Taylor-Poole Leather company were completely destroyed and eight other factories heavily damaged. Great crowds gathered to watch the conflagration. The people were repeatedly driven back by the police and warned of the danger of falling walls, but despite these warnings, they crowded as close to the burning buildings as they could get.

The engines were standing at a corner near the Krippendorf factory. The firemen were carrying a hose past the building when the walls caved and crashed overhead. The spectators who saw the first sign of the collapse (Continued on Page Ten.)

WORK ON NATION CUTOFF IS SLOW

Probably Two Years Before Portland-Frisco Trains Be Routed That Way.

It will probably take two years before the route of the Southern Pacific between Portland and San Francisco will be routed by way of the Natron cutoff. This was stated by General Manager J. P. O'Brien of the Harriman lines this morning. The 30 mile stretch now under contract from Natron in the north and Klamath Falls in the south, are to be completed by June 30 next year, but it will probably take a year or 18 months to close the gap.

Mr. O'Brien returned yesterday after having accompanied Julius Kruttschnitt, general superintendent of construction and maintenance of the Harriman lines, on an inspection tour of the Harriman lines in Oregon and Washington, and (Continued on Page Ten.)

SECRET COUNCIL: KING AND PREMIER

Inspiring Hope on Part of the Liberals That King Will Create Desired Peers.

London, Dec. 21.—A secret conference today between King George and Premier Asquith gave rise to the belief that the king had decided to create a sufficient number of Liberal peers to outvote the Conservatives on legislation to liberate the house of lords of the peerage of Great Britain. It is probable that there will be no definite announcement of the king's plans until his majesty addresses parliament when it convenes.

PRIZE STEER BRINGS FANCY FIGURE FOR HOLIDAY FEASTERS

There are champions and champions, each at the head of his class, but the prize money that was given at \$150 in the stockyards today was a headliner that took all the blue ribbons. The animal weighed 1750 pounds and the price received was at the rate of 14 1/2 cents a pound. The steer was brought to this city by Goodwin & Goodwin from Detroit, Mich., and was sold to the Union Meat company.

RAILROAD VALUES HIDDEN MEANS OF PRESENT LAW

Interstate Commerce Commission Demands Physical Valuation in Report to Congress. Rebating Continues.

(United Press Leased Wire.) Washington, Dec. 21.—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 supporting it give 'cost of property' suggests even remotely or in a reliable measure either the money invested or the present value of the railroads."

The report asserts that the most important feature of the new railroad regulation law is the provision authorizing the interstate commerce commission to suspend proposed increases of rates, pending an investigation.

"The fight against discrimination," continues the report, "is by no means won. There are practices remaining which are more insidious and more difficult of extinction than open rebating, because the hidden contractual arrangements are entirely legal except for the effect produced."

According to the report, the operating revenues of the railroads for July, August and September were \$145,141,504, an increase of \$15,000,000 over the revenue for the same months last year.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS BURN IN WRECK

Mail Car Destroyed in Collision on Pennsylvania Railroad.

(United Press Leased Wire.) Chicago, Dec. 21.—Christmas gifts valued at \$50,000 were destroyed today in a wreck on the Pennsylvania railroad, when a passenger train and a westbound freight collided in the yards on the west side here. When the trains met, the boiler of the passenger engine exploded, sending fire to a car of registered mail. The fire had been extinguished a police guard was thrown about the debris, while laborers shoveled the ashes of the car into cans. Systematic sifting of the ashes began and diamonds and jewelry were recovered. The engineer of the passenger locomotive was probably fatally asphyxiated.

CHIEF STONE SAYS ROADS' DECISION MUST COME TODAY

Repeats Assertion That 35,000 Engineers Will Quit Today if Demands Not Met; Officials Charge Bluff.

(United Press Leased Wire.) Chicago, Dec. 21.—Whether or not the 25,000 engineers employed on the 61 western railroads, now conferring with the general managers here, shall strike will be decided within the next 24 hours, according to Warren S. Stone, grand chief of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers.

"We will not strike before night," Stone said today, "but we will not tolerate further delay. There must be short, sharp, decisive action."

Charles F. Neill, commissioner of labor, who is here endeavoring to arbitrate the questions at issue, held a long conference with the officials of the railroad companies today.

GERMANS ALLEGE SLIGHT INTENDED BY YANKEE NAVY

Sociable With English and the French, Passed Wilhelmshaven Without Hesitating; Speeches That Irritate.

(United Press Leased Wire.) Berlin, Dec. 21.—The fraternizing of English, American and French fleets, with the exclusion of Germany's fleet, is said to have caused bitter feeling on the part of Germany's navy officials. The failure of the American fleet on its European tour to stop at Wilhelmshaven, although it passed within four hours' sail of that port, is regarded as an affront by some of Germany's leading naval and military men and as the itinerary of the fleet was outlined by President Taft and the heads of the navy and state departments, they are inclined to regard it as an affair between nations.

Count Reventlow, an eminent German naval expert, is one of the leaders of the anti-American faction. The count has expressed himself as bitterly angry at the alleged affront, and also has taken exception to several speeches made by Americans at public entertainments in England in honor of the officers of the American fleet.

METHODIST MEDICS DANCE; PRESIDENT HUMAN IS ANGRY

May Decline to Sign Graduation Certificates of Students Who Attended Ball in Defiance of His Explicit Orders.

Willamette University, Salem, Or., Dec. 21.—Because the students of the college of medicine of the Willamette university, last night gave a splendid formal ball to celebrate the holiday season, President Fletcher Homan of the university may refuse to sign the certificates of graduation of those who attended.

In an announcement made to the students at an assembly yesterday, President Homan threatened any student of the college of liberal arts with instant and summary expulsion who attended the ball to be given that evening by students of the college of medicine. There were not many students in the library at the dancing party as a consequence.

"The grand march at the 'Medic's ball' last night was led by Dean and Mrs. W. H. Byrd of the college of medicine and Dean and Mrs. Charles L. McNary of the college of law of the university and the ball was one of the most successful held at Salem this season."

It is said President Homan is consulting legal advisers in Portland today to determine if he has power of the suspension of students in the departments of medicine and law in the university, of which he is president. Though partaking of most of the advantages of the university, such as athletics, the colleges of medicine and law have always assumed an independent attitude and students in these departments have conducted themselves in a freer manner than students in the liberal arts departments at the university. Willamette is a Methodist institution and dancing is absolutely prohibited among adherents of the faith.

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