

FOUR ARE DEAD

Explosion of Gas in Chicago
Wrecks Buildings.

HOUSES SHAKEN BLOCKS AWAY

Overpressure in Tanks Caused the
Accident—Wrecked Plant at
Once Takes Fire.

Chicago, Nov. 21.—Four persons were killed and a score injured today by a series of gas explosions that destroyed the plant of the Pyle Electric Head-light company. The shocks of the explosion were so severe that all the buildings near the demolished plant were damaged, and windows were shattered for blocks, while persons were thrown from their feet. Overpressure is believed to have caused the accident.

The Pyle company supplies illumination for railroad coaches. This illuminant is forced into small retorts, which, when attached under the floor of a car, will supply it with light for months. In order to make this possible the retorts are subjected to an extremely high pressure. It was such a tank that caused the first explosion. While workmen and wreckage filled the air, other retorts exploded in such rapid succession that it was almost impossible to distinguish the separate detonations. There were nine such explosions in all, and these left the plant in flames. The fire kept the department busy for several hours. The total loss to property is \$75,000.

IS 3,000 STRONG.

Great Throng in Attendance at National Grange.

Portland, Nov. 19.—Yesterday's attendance at the National Grange convention went up to nearly 3,000. Today bids fair to bring the largest numbers, owing to the fact that the three final degrees will be conferred this afternoon at the Empire theater. The sessions are growing more enthusiastic and much business is being transacted at every session.

There was no evening session last night, the various committees needing the time for their reports. The Armory hall was thrown open after 5 o'clock to the general public, and the visitors held impromptu receptions among themselves. Many speeches were made and songs were sung, the occasion being one of the most enjoyable of the informal gatherings so far during the week.

Yesterday's business began with the annual address of G. W. F. Gaxnt, of New Jersey, assistant steward of the National Grange. Others addressing the meeting were: B. C. Patterson, of Connecticut, and the state managers from New York, Washington, Missouri, Delaware, Colorado and Vermont, who made reports upon the condition of their respective charges.

RUSSIA WILL NOT RESENT IT.

Favors Roosevelt's Peace Move, but Can't Join in While War Is On.

St. Petersburg, Nov. 21.—The Russian formal reply says a circular note regarding the convening of The Hague conference is not expected until next week. In the meantime the views of other powers are being ascertained through the Russian representatives abroad. While there is no reason to believe that Russia can agree to participate in a conference during a war there is every indication that she will not only not resent the proposal, but that her reply will be of a cordial nature.

In the course of a conversation on the subject between Foreign Minister Lamedorff and Charge d'Affaires Eddy, of the American embassy, the former spoke feelingly of Russia's great interest in the work and aims of the peace conference initiated by Emperor Nicholas, and the important fact developed that it had been Russia's intention, had not the war intervened, herself to invite the powers to a second conference. While the war was in progress, however, Count Lamedorff explained, it was a great difficulty to a fruitful discussion and to a decision in a question which might affect the activity of the present belligerents.

Canal Commissioner Resigns.

Washington, Nov. 21.—Frank J. Hecker has resigned as a member of the Panama canal commission. In his letter of resignation sent to President Roosevelt, Mr. Hecker said the climate of the canal zone is unfavorable to his health, and he felt constrained to resign. The president accepted the resignation, and in reply to Mr. Hecker's letter, paid the retiring commissioner a tribute, and expressed regret that his health would not permit him to serve any longer. Mr. Hecker is from Michigan.

Describes Situation as Critical.

Washington, Nov. 21.—Consul General Fowler today cabled the state department from Chefoo that the situation at Port Arthur is extremely critical, the outer forts having fallen into the possession of the Japanese. He also states that three Japanese torpedo boat destroyers are lying outside of Chefoo harbor, and that the Russian crew of the torpedo boat destroyer blown up are transferring their arms and supplies to a Chinese cruiser.

Millions for Defense.

Berlin, Nov. 21.—A dispatch to the Frankfurter Zeitung from Constantinople says Turkey is ordering 100 new batteries of artillery from German, French and English factories at the cost of \$10,000,000. The Krupp company gets the largest contracts.

EXPLOSION CAUSES FIRE.

Missouri Building at St. Louis Fair
Totally Destroyed.

World's Fair Grounds, St. Louis, Nov. 22.—The Missouri state building was destroyed by fire tonight, resulting from the explosion of a hot water heater in the basement. Instantly the flames shot up through the rotunda and the north wing and cupola were a solid mass of flames within ten minutes after the explosion. The loss cannot be estimated accurately, owing to the temporary nature of the construction material, which has no salvage value. The principal loss is in the contents of the building. The building cost \$145,000, and in the building were \$75,000 worth of furnishings, the most valuable of which were portraits of ex-Missouri governors and supreme judges. These cannot be replaced.

The fire was the most spectacular that has occurred in St. Louis in years. Thousands of persons hurried from all portions of the grounds, attracted by the sheet of flames that spurted from the cupolas, making a far greater brilliancy than the illumination of all the buildings. A wind was blowing from the south, and the flames shot down the northern side of the cupola and met a sheet of flames which enveloped the northern wing. Instantly the building was aflame from top to bottom in the northern half. Sparks were carried over the United States government building as far northwest as the Liberal Arts palace. Bucket brigades were hurried to the roofs of these buildings, preventing ignition.

After the flames were under control and had been sufficiently extinguished to admit the firemen entering the building the south wall fell without warning and buried Lloyd Randolph, driver of city engine No. 28, and Frank O'Connor, of city truck No. 9. Several others only escaped by a narrow margin. Captain Edward O'Neill, of World's fair truck No. 4, was seriously hurt, George Carenbach was killed and Jerry Fagin, of the same company, was probably fatally injured.

TWELVE LIVES LOST IN FIRE.

Early Morning Blaze in New York
Tenement District.

New York, Nov. 22.—At least 12 lives were lost in a fire in a Brooklyn tenement house early today, and the firemen are searching for other bodies. It is believed the death list will equal 15. Twelve persons were injured, none, it is believed, fatally.

Shortly after 2 o'clock this morning flames were found in the cellar of No. 186 Troutman street, a three story frame tenement house, and by the time the firemen arrived the stairways and air-shafts were ablaze and the halls filled with smoke. Three other alarms were turned in and soon a large detachment of firemen was at work fighting the fire.

Despite the efforts of the firemen the flames spread to the adjoining tenements, 182, 184, 188 and 190. The occupants of these houses were early notified of their danger and it is believed that all escaped.

The firemen found the dead bodies of nine persons shortly after their arrival at the scene and another was added to the number within a few minutes. Further search was rewarded by the finding of the bodies of a man and a woman in a bedroom on the top floor of No. 186. They were severely burned, but death, as in the cases of the other victims, had been due to suffocation.

The first floor of the building, where the fire originated, was occupied by Antonio Giambalvo, who conducted a grocery store, his living apartments being in the rear. The flames were first found, according to those who turned in the first alarm, in the cellar immediately under this store, and they communicated with lightning rapidity to the upper floors of the house. The cause of the fire is unknown.

The money loss is considerable. The occupants of the houses were laborers.

May Succeed Hecker.

Washington, Nov. 22.—While no announcement has yet been made regarding the president's action in the selection of a man to succeed Colonel Frank J. Hecker on the isthmian canal commission, it is known he is considering seriously the appointment of Senator Francis M. Cockrell, of Missouri, to the vacancy. It is intimated that Senator Cockrell himself practically will have the determination of the matter. If his health will permit him to undertake the arduous work it is reasonably certain he can have the appointment.

Russia Buys Destroyer in England.

New York, Nov. 22.—A remarkable story comes from the Glasgow correspondent of the American, to the effect that a torpedo boat destroyer of great speed, built in an English shipyard, has been delivered to the Russian government, and that Burke Roche, ex-member of parliament from Ireland, and well known in society, had commanded the boat during its voyage through the Kiel ship canal to Liban, on the Baltic.

Italy for Arbitration.

Rome, Nov. 22.—Foreign Minister Tittoni today informed Ambassador Meyer that he had given instructions to the Italian ambassador at Washington to sign an arbitration treaty with the United States similar to those between the United States and France, and France and Great Britain.

BLOW UP SHIP

Russians Sink Their Own Vessel
at Chefoo.

THREE DULL EXPLOSIONS HEARD

Japanese Vessels Seen Off Coast
and Commander Feared Capture
—Carried Important Message

Chefoo, Nov. 18.—Fearing capture by the Japanese, whose boats were off the port, the Russians today blew up the torpedo boat destroyer Rastoropy, which escaped from Port Arthur under cover of a severe storm and entered this harbor last night.

The correspondent of the Associated Press learns authoritatively that the Rastoropy had sealed orders providing that unless there came a highly favorable opportunity to escape, the vessel should be blown up. Sufficient powder for the purpose was secreted before the destroyer left Port Arthur. Small charges of ordinary powder placed in each of the five water-tight compartments were exploded.

Customs Officer Koenig was on board the destroyer, and the Russians experienced considerable difficulty in getting him off without arousing his suspicion. The destroyer's cutter, manned by two men, was lying near, and the official was persuaded to take a ride around the Rastoropy in order that he might see the injuries she was alleged to have received.

No sooner had the customs officer stepped into the cutter than a petty officer drew his watch and urged the rowers to make all speed away. When the destroyer had gone down the official was taken on shore.

The Russians, with the exception of one man, left the destroyer during the afternoon. This last man lit slow fuses and blew up the vessel. There were three dull explosions which were scarcely audible 100 yards away from the place where they occurred. Almost simultaneously the Rastoropy sank to the bottom. A single spar marks her grave.

NATIONAL SESSIONS OPEN.

Thirty-Eighth Annual Opened with
Sixth-Degree Ceremony.

Portland, Nov. 17.—National Master Aaron Jones opened the 38th annual convention of the National Grange at Armory hall yesterday morning at 11 o'clock assisted by the other officers of the national body. The ceremony was conducted in the sixth degree, prefaced by a declaration by the national master announcing its aims and purposes. A special choir furnished the opening songs, those among the audience who were singers assisting in the chorus. The opening session was necessarily brief, owing to the lack of complete preparations. The only business transacted was the appointment of the committee on credentials, upon which the convention took a recess to meet again at 1:30 P. M.

Promptly at 1:30 P. M. the master's gavel fell and the afternoon session began with a song by the choir, followed by the report of the committee on credentials.

During a short space of time, while the committee on credentials was making its report, upon the invitation of the master, the assemblage listened to short addresses by Hon. William H. Lileary, Hon. Augustus High and Hon. Jacob Voorhees.

REMOVED BY PRESIDENT.

Roosevelt Takes Initial Step Toward
Purging Alaska Service.

Washington, Nov. 18.—Convinced that the Alaska judiciary is more or less undermined by rottenness, and that all the courts are resting under a cloud of suspicion because of innumerable charges preferred against the various judges and their subordinates, President Roosevelt today took the initial step toward purging the service of undesirable elements by summarily removing Frank H. Richards, of Alaska, marshal of Nome district, and requesting the resignation of Melville C. Brown, of Wyoming, judge of the Juneau district.

Japan Appreciate's France's Position

Tokio, Nov. 18.—The negotiations between Tokio and Paris, concerning the alleged violation by France of neutrality in permitting ships of the Russian second squadron to use French harbors, continue. Pending their conclusion, the Japanese government is silent. Sections of the press and public are indulging in somewhat severe criticisms of the action of the French, but the feeling is distinctly more temperate among the better informed Japanese who sympathize with the delicate position of France as Russia's ally.

Liberty Bell Sent Home.

St. Louis, Nov. 18.—Special farewell exercises in honor of the Liberty bell, which had been on exhibition in the Pennsylvania building at the World's fair, were held today, at the conclusion of which the honored relic was started on its trip back to Philadelphia. An immense throng attended the exercises, crowding the space around the bell in the rotunda of the Pennsylvania building. The ceremony closed with prolonged cheers.

Russia Has New foe.

London, Nov. 18.—A dispatch to the Pall Mall Gazette from Moscow says that a telegram received there from Baku announces that trouble has occurred between Russians and Afghans at Kusk. The Afghans, it is added, exploded a Russian magazine, and many soldiers were killed.

CITIES IN RACE.

Four Are After the Next National
Grange Convention.

Portland, Nov. 18.—Increasing attendance marked the second day's session of the National Grange convention. Despite the heavy rain, a great crowd of Grangers is coming in from all parts of the Northwest, and the attendance will continue to increase during the remainder of the week. The climax will probably be reached tomorrow afternoon when the final degrees of the order are to be conferred.

Speculation is already rife as to where the next convention of the National Grange will be held. Several cities are after the honor. Among them are Washington D. C.; Hartford, Conn.; Trenton, N. J., and Milwaukee, Wis.—Governor Pardee of California, has sent an urgent invitation for the National Grange to meet somewhere in his state next year, but it is hardly probable that his invitation will find favor with the delegates, as the cost of coming to the Pacific coast is about \$6,000 more than it would be for the Grange to be held in an eastern city. The place for holding the next session will not be decided upon until some time next week. Yesterday's session was principally devoted to addresses by National officers and reports from state masters. The list of standing committees and order of business have been printed in pamphlet form for convenience of the delegates; the hall has been partially rearranged and fires are kept burning all night long, so that the hall is more comfortable than it was on Wednesday.

Fruit was distributed yesterday to all the visitors, and there is now a cheerful air pervading among all present, as they are becoming better acquainted.

The most important address yesterday was that of the worthy overseer, T. C. Atkinson, of West Virginia, second officer of the order.

The board of regents of the Oregon Agricultural college invited the delegates to visit the college at Corvallis during the meeting. The invitation was accepted, and a special train will take them next Tuesday.

NEW LIVESTOCK ASSOCIATION.

Reorganization of Present National
Body is Under Consideration.

Denver, Nov. 19.—A special committee has been appointed to draw up a plan of reorganization for the National Livestock association. President Hagenbarth has named Fred P. Johnson, of this city; W. A. Harris, ex-senator from Kansas; Y. Murdo McKenzie, of Texas, and Alvin H. Sanders, of the Breeders' Gazette, of Chicago, to act with him as a committee to frame a new constitution and by-laws for the new organization. This committee will report to a committee to be named by the convention when it meets here January 9 of next year. The committee chosen by the convention will consist of three members from each branch of the live-stock industry, and they will use the by-laws and constitution made by the special committee as a basis for their full report to the convention of a plan of reorganization.

While Mr. Hagenbarth is in Chicago he expects to secure the meeting of the National Livestock commission meeting for Denver for the same date as the three other Livestock associations will meet there. This brings here 500 commission men from all parts of the country. Several other branches of the livestock industry will be represented also.

BIG PIER IS BURNED.

Boston Firemen Have Hard Time to
Keep Fire From Spreading.

Boston, Nov. 19.—The London pier and shed of the Warren line, in Charlestown, filled with oil, wood pulp and other highly inflammable material, was completely destroyed by fire tonight, and it was only by the utmost exertion that the firemen were able to save the adjoining property. The big Hoosac tunnel grain elevator and the White Star line pier, and a number of vessels narrowly escaped destruction. The entire north end of the city was deluged with sparks. At midnight the fire was under control. The loss is estimated at \$600,000, of which \$500,000 is on freight.

More Russian Ships Sail.

Liban, Russia, Nov. 19.—The second division of the Russian second Pacific squadron sailed today. It consists of the cruisers Oleg and Izumrud, the auxiliary cruisers Kuban, Terek and Orel, the cruisers Rion and Dneiper, formerly the St. Petersburg and Smolensk, and the torpedo boat destroyers Liany, Rziti, Gromki, Gozny and Prozorlyvi. The division is expected to overtake Rear Admiral Vokresam's division by way of the Suez canal. The two divisions will thus be united before reaching Japanese waters.

Metcalf May Step Up.

Washington, N. V. 19.—It is said tonight, on high authority, that Secretary Hitchcock will retire from the cabinet on March 4 next. He will relinquish his position without reference to his possible election as United States senator from Missouri. It is the general understanding that Victor H. Metcalf, at present head of the department of commerce and labor, will be transferred to the interior department as successor to Mr. Hitchcock.

Shakhe River is Frozen Over.

Shanghai, Nov. 19.—According to advices received here the Japanese have advanced across the Shakhe river, which now has become frozen over. This is believed to have made possible a general advance on the Russian position and a battle across the Shakhe is thought to be imminent.

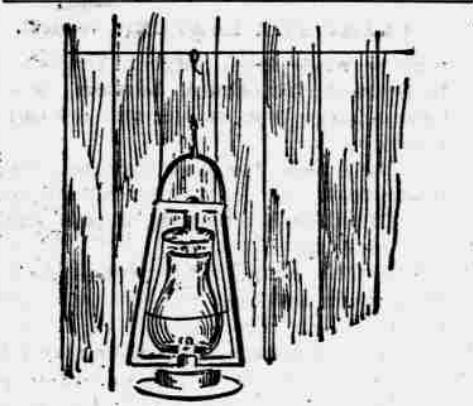
FARMS AND FARMERS



Lighting the Barn Safely.

One cannot be too careful using lights of any kind in barns, but there is little danger if a lantern is used and some way provided so that it may be securely hung beyond the reach of danger. The illustration shows a simple way of doing this. If there are several places in the barn where light is likely to be needed stretch a strand of smooth fence wire so that it will hang taut over these places first alighting on another strip of wire with a ring and with a snap at the other end. When the lantern is to be put in place simply snap over the bale of the lantern as shown in the illustration.

If the lantern is to be placed where there is little chance of any one running against it, a long hoop may be made of one end of the wire, instead of the snap, and the bale of the lantern slipped over it. By making the hoop long and pinching the upper end so that there will be just room enough



THE BARN LANTERN.

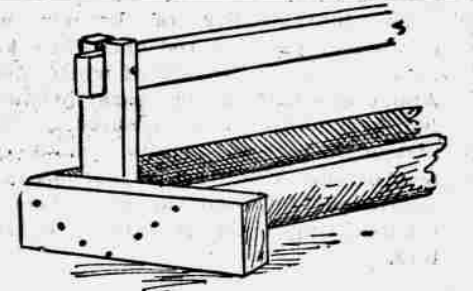
to slip the handle of the lantern between, the danger of knocking it off is much lessened, although this plan is not as safe as the snap.

Small Yards for Poultry.

When it is not possible to supply a range of considerable size for the fowls and they must be practically kept in yards, an excellent plan is to divide the yard into two or three sections, according to its size, and treat them in the following manner: Plow or spade each yard, and in one or two, if divided into three spaces, plant some early vegetables that will require some cultivation—radishes, for example. When the crop is taken out, turn the fowls into this yard and plant the others in the same way. When the yards are divided into three, one of them may be prepared thoroughly and grass seeds or oats or millet sown in it, with the vegetables in the second yard, while the fowls occupy the third. When the grass or small grain gets two or three inches high, turn the fowls in this yard and sow the soil in the yard they occupied, in a like manner. By the time they have cleaned out the grass lot, the one in which the vegetables are grown will be ready for them to scratch over. It is surprising how well the fowls will do under this plan, even though each yard is very small.

Good Pig Trough.

O. C. Burch, of Nebraska, sends Iowa Homestead a plan for making a pig trough to prevent the hogs getting in it. "I have mine," says Mr.



GOOD PIG TROUGH.

Burch, "with a number of holes in the uprights at the ends of the trough so it can be adjusted to suit different sized hogs. The top piece or rail can be taken out in cleaning out the trough. A trough of this kind is almost always clean and such a thing as mud is unknown about a trough of this kind."

The Perennial Plants.

More and more people who love flowers are getting into the way of growing the old-fashioned flowers such as the sweet william, hollyhock, larkspur and others familiar to most people who have reached middle life. This class of plants are among the easiest to grow and are particularly useful on the farm grounds where it is not always easiest to care for tender plants over winter. The one complaint about hardy perennials is that they are not so profuse in blooming the second season of flowering. With many of the classes this may be remedied by planting the seeds as soon as they ripen, in the late summer, in the places where you want the plants to grow and bloom.

The Vinegar Process.

Cider turns to vinegar, first, by the sugar being converted into alcohol, and next by taking more oxygen, when it becomes vinegar. The process is a chemical one and cannot be prevented, as long as the least quantity of oxygen (in the air) reaches the cider. Bacterial agents, however, have something to do with the changes that occur. Salicylic acid is used for keeping vinegar, but it does harm. Boiling the cider also retards changes. A method used in Canada with good results is

to filter the cider, put it in a clean new tub and expose it to the dense fumes of burning sulphur in a box having a lid, closing the lid for half an hour and repeating the process two or three times. The sulphurous acid gas is absorbed by the cider (which should be cold), and prevents fermentation without injuring the cider.

Plan for Organization.

There seems to be no good reason why an organization among farmers for mutual benefit should not be as successful as similar organizations in other lines. It is not intended that such organization should increase the cost of farm produce to the consumer, for this is unnecessary. But there is certainly room for a plan which will enable the producer to market his crops at a price which will give him a fair return for his labor.

The subject is too large to treat exhaustively in one item, for there are many essential things to do to make such an organization a success. The idea is worth serious consideration, but it must be based on business principles, the lack of which has caused the failure of nearly every attempt at organization among soil workers. Here are a few of the things which must be done to win success: Every member should bear a proportion of the expense in accordance with the proportion of his crop to that of other members. Crops of unequal quality should be marketed on their merits.

In other words, the grower of inferior fruit or any other crop, must not expect to share equally with the man whose shipment is of the first grade. The manager should be selected with care and then be given proper control. If these few essentials seem too formidable, work up to them by combining with one or two growers whose crops are of the same quality as your own and select a good commission man and all work together. A year or two in this line will give you faith in the larger organization plan.—Indianapolis News.

Fertilizers Tested.

Bulletin No. 253 of the New York Agricultural Experiment Station (Geneva) gives the results of analyses of commercial fertilizers for the spring 1904. There were collected 468 samples representing 371 different brands. While eighty-one of these brands fell short of their guarantees in nitrogen, twenty-nine brands in available phosphoric acid and seventy-five brands in potash, a general average of all shows that the guarantee was exceeded in these ingredients. Farmers who are purchasing commercial fertilizers should send for this bulletin in order to ascertain the standing of the goods they are using.

Fighting the Curculio.

The one enemy of those who grow plums and quinces is the curculio and the nature of the insect is such that it is only possible to get it out of the tree by jarring the tree; shaking the tree will not answer the same purpose. The curculio is hard to locate and the only way to ascertain if it is at work is to jar the trees every few days until the insect is found and dislodged or until one is certain it is not on the trees.

Poultry Pickings.

Exercise is cheaper than medicine. The dust heap is absolutely necessary for fowls.

The brood still under the mother's care should be liberally fed.

In feeding ground bone to young fowls, be sure to have it fresh.

Feather pulling is a vice that comes from confinement and idleness.

Allow no fith of any kind to accumulate within reach of the fowls.

Thoroughness in detail in poultry raising is the great secret of success.

Young chickens may be fed almost anything that is clean and wholesome.

Common fowls do not possess the characteristic qualities of thorough-breds.

When fowls are permitted to roost in foul, damp houses it causes droopishness.

Caponizing should be performed when the cockerels are three or four months old.

After the fowls begin to moult they should be given a little ground bone once every day.

Fowls will eat a great deal of granulated charcoal. As a preventive of disease it is invaluable.

By giving young fowls a free range it will aid materially to develop a strong, healthy constitution.

Poultry should always have access to green food when possible, and when they cannot it should be supplied.

It is easier to keep fowls in a good condition now than to allow them to run down and then build up again.

Corn, when fed to the hens by itself, has a tendency to fatten rather than produce the most profitable egg laying.

Tarred paper is better than almost any other material for lining the inside of coops and houses. It is also excellent for driving away lice.

The only sure and safe way to keep large flocks, whether young or old, is to separate them into small lots, each one to occupy a place for itself.

The distinguishing characteristics of the Sylesbury breed of ducks are their fecundity and early maturity, combined with their great aptitude to fatten.