

SCORE HURLED TO DEATH BY BLAST

Half Ton of Dynamite Fired Prematurely Near Albany, N. Y.

Bodies of Victims Thrown Many Feet

—Preparations to Enlarge Quarry by Firing 8,000 Pounds of Explosive Had Been Made When Accident Occurred.

Albany, N. Y., May 13.—At least 20 men were killed today by a premature blast of dynamite in a stone quarry operated by the Callanan Road Improvement company near South Bethlehem, 11 miles southwest of Albany.

One thousand pounds of dynamite exploded and the bodies were hurled hundreds of feet. As darkness was falling a wagon drew up to the engine house loaded with bodies that had been picked up back on the quarry hill.

The preparations for today's blast had been going on for six weeks.

Thirteen holes, 75 feet deep, had been drilled at points about 25 feet back of the big quarry and the explosion of the dynamite, with which they were to be loaded, was expected to displace 40,000 tons of rock.

More than 8,000 pounds of dynamite were to have been used. The workmen had placed 500 pounds in six of the holes and were working on the seventh, when a percussion cap was discharged prematurely.

A terrific explosion followed, throwing tons of rock into the air and scattering the bodies of the victims in all directions.

The explosion was distinctly felt in this city, and many people thought the shock was one of earthquake. As no second shock followed, the alarm soon subsided.

WIRELESS LIGHTING.

Transmits Power Through Air and Floods Hall With Rays.

Omaha, Neb., May 13.—Lighting by electricity without the use of wires was successfully accomplished by Dr. Frederick H. Milliner at the Electrical exposition now in progress at the Omaha auditorium. The doctor is with the Union Pacific as experimental electrician, and is working on a cab wireless signal for the control of trains. This is to be worked in connection with the block signal system.

One year ago, in the Union Pacific shops in Omaha, Dr. Milliner constructed an electric truck to travel about the yards by wireless. This truck is started by wireless and goes four speeds ahead and four speeds back without any power other than the wireless. By an apparatus similar to that used with the truck, the switch at the Omaha auditorium is opened and closed.

The lighting of the auditorium is something that is beyond the power of any person to explain. Through the courtesy of Colonel Glassford at Fort Omaha, the wireless apparatus there is put in operation, then at the auditorium, six miles away, by an instrument constructed by Dr. Milliner, the electric waves are gathered, brought into the auditorium, where, after the electric power from the lighting plant has been cut, they pass to the switchboard and out over the wires and through the hundreds of lamps. This wireless power can be thrown off or on by simply pushing a button in the little machine constructed by the doctor.

Pickpocket Robs Woman Cop.

Chicago, May 13.—Mrs. Josephine Sullivan, with a police star pinned to her dress and her eyes riveted on a thrilling work entitled "How to Be a Detective," was riding homeward on a streetcar yesterday afternoon, having been sworn in shortly before that as the first woman policeman of this city. When Mrs. Sullivan arrived home, however, she discovered that her purse and other valuables had been "lifted." The "coopers" was compelled to return to the city hall station and report her loss.

Abdul's Head Cost \$10,000,000.

Belgrade, May 13.—Ten million dollars is the price paid by Abdul Hamid, deposed sultan of Turkey, for the privilege of retaining his head, according to a statement in today's Stampa. The paper says Abdul has authorized Enver Bey, a Young Turk leader, to draw this fabulous sum of money from his deposits in foreign banks. The money, it is understood, will be turned into the depleted treasury of the new government.

More Frost in Fruit Belt.

Grand Junction, Colo., May 13.—The weather observation tonight predicts that before morning the temperature will probably go below the freezing point in some portions of the Grand Junction fruit region. The advanced condition of the buds makes cold weather at this time doubly dangerous. Preparations for smudging have been made.

Hawaiians Refuse Japs.

Honolulu, May 3.—All the plantation owners have agreed to stand together in refusing the Japanese laborers who went on strike several days ago for increased wages. The demands of the Japanese, couched in excessively polite language, were again presented to the plantation owners today, but they firmly refused to grant them.

UNION PACIFIC EXEMPT.

Interstate Commerce Commission Allows Protest to Stand.

Washington, May 14.—Because it is 2,300 miles from St. Paul to Spokane over the Harriman railway system and only 1,900 miles over the Great Northern and Northern Pacific, the Interstate Commerce commission today modified its recent decision in the Spokane rate case, exempting the Harriman roads from adoption of the rates fixed by that decision as to St. Paul traffic. This decision was made possible only by the fact that no direct line from St. Paul to Omaha was a party to the Spokane case.

The commission, however, is unwilling at this time to grant similar exemption to the Harriman system on freight from Chicago to Spokane, because the Northwestern and Burlington roads, which connect with the Union Pacific system at Omaha, were parties to that case. However, the commission temporarily postpones its order as to Chicago-Spokane rates over the Union Pacific, giving the Harriman roads opportunity to establish new rates from Chicago to all territory between Pendleton and Spokane.

California Enters Protest.

San Francisco, May 14.—Believing that the reduction of freight rates to inland distributing points ordered recently by the Hill and Harriman lines, in accordance with the decision of the Interstate Commerce commission in the so-called Spokane case, will seriously injure Pacific coast cities to which no corresponding reduction has been made, William R. Wheeler, traffic manager of the Merchants' exchange, wired to the commissioners today asking for a stay in their approval of the proposed rates until the coast cities have had an opportunity to show the injustice of the new tariff.

WILL FIGHT STRIKE.

French Deputies Show Confidence in Government.

Paris, May 14.—A turbulent session of the chamber of deputies today resulted in a victory for Premier Clemenceau, when the government's policy with regard to the postal strike was emphatically endorsed by a vote of 454 to 59, including also the government's insistence that the postal employees and other functionaries have no right to strike.

Immediately afterward the chamber passed a vote of general confidence in the government by 365 to 75.

The strikers received the chamber's rebuke with a shrug of the shoulders, declaring it only served to bind closer their forces, which would soon startle the country by a big increase and a rapid extension of the general movement. On the other hand, it is intimated that the government has other plans in view.

Up to midnight there was no change in the situation. If anything it was in the direction of a weakening of the strike sentiment. The general conviction is that if the movement does not make vast strides tomorrow it is almost certain of complete failure.

FEWER RAILROAD ACCIDENTS

Year 1908 Was 40 Per Cent Safer Than Was 1907.

Chicago, May 14.—Not since the business prostration of 1895 and 1896 has travel on American railroads been so safe as it was during 1908. In a pamphlet issued by the bureau of railway news and statistics, it is stated that there were 1,932 fewer fatalities to passengers and employees in railway accidents during 1908 than there were during 1907, which is a decrease of approximately 40 per cent. The greatest decrease was in fatalities resulting from train accidents, and the following conclusion is drawn:

"All things considered, the conclusion is unavoidable that the diminution in fatalities was due almost entirely to the recession in freight traffic, which took the strain off every department of service and substituted an orderly observance of rules by passengers and employees, instead of their violation in the feverish rush of prosperity."

Taft to Aid at Opening.

Montrose, Colo., May 14.—The committee having in charge the celebration incident to the approaching opening of the Gunnison tunnel today received a letter from Secretary of the Interior Ballinger accepting the invitation to attend the opening. Acceptances have also been received from Director Newell, of the reclamation service; Chief Forester Pinchott and President Taft. The acceptance of President Taft is conditional upon the exercises being held between August 15 and 20.

Divorce Records Broken.

San Francisco, May 14.—Seven divorces in 28 minutes—just four minutes to a decree—was the new record established today in the speedy dissolution of the marriage bond by Superior Judge George H. Cabaniss. The judge was in a hurry and took the examination of the seven plaintiffs and seven corroborating witnesses out of the hands of the attorneys. The quickness with which questions and answers came made the court gasp.

Mikado to Greet Americans.

Tokyo, May 14.—Rear Admiral Giles B. Harber and other officials will be received in audience by the emperor of Japan Monday next. At the dinner which will be given to the officers of the American fleet by Minister of Marine Saito this evening, the chief aim will be the cultivation of true friendship between the visitors and the Japanese. To accomplish this, formality will be laid aside as much as possible.

A BRIEF DAILY REPORT ON THE WORK OF CONGRESS

Saturday, May 15.

Washington, May 15.—The lowering of duties in the case of eight or ten classes of wire goods contained in the steel schedule, upon motion of Aldrich, in charge of the tariff bill, gave great encouragement today to senators who are advocating a revision downward. With evident gratification, Beveridge greeted the proposed amendments by the chairman of the finance committee, declaring:

"Good; that's making progress." The entire session was devoted to the steel schedule, the section relating to pen knives being under consideration when the senate adjourned to meet at 10 o'clock Monday morning, one hour earlier than the senate has been beginning business during the last ten days.

Friday, May 14.

Washington, May 14.—Again the committee on finance was upheld when the senate today by a vote of 35 to 42 voted down an amendment by Cummins to lower the duty on round iron and up-held the house rate, which was recommended by the senate committee. Almost the entire day was given up to a debate on the profits of the United States Steel corporation, and toward the end personalities were exchanged. Beveridge proposed an amendment increasing the duty on tobacco and its products and charged that by continuing the short weight packages of the Spanish war period the tobacco trust was reaping a harvest of \$2,000,000 a year.

Asking that an interview with J. J. Hill be read Scott endorsed its advice to congress that oratory be suspended and that congress promptly pass the bill.

"This," Scott said, "is in line with letters I am daily receiving, begging and praying that these gentlemen (waving his hand over the senate chamber) get through with their windjamming and let the country go ahead with its business."

Thursday, May 13.

Washington, May 13.—After a day devoted to discussing the duty on iron ore, the senate adopted by a vote of 61 to 24 the recommendation of the committee on finance for a duty of 25 cents per ton. Party lines were annihilated in the vote today, as 17 Democrats voted "aye" with the Republicans and 12 Republicans voted "no" with the Democrats.

During the day Bailey announced that he proposed to vote for the duty on iron ore as a revenue measure; declared that free ore would not affect the prosperity of the United States Steel corporation, and added that, even if it did, there was a better way to deal with that organization, which was by an enforcement of the anti-trust law against it. He declared he expected to see this law enforced, and expressed confidence that eventually the officers of the Steel corporation would either be in the penitentiary or fugitives from justice. For the first time there was a suggestion looking to the fixing of a date for a vote, but it came to naught because of objection from Beveridge.

Wednesday, May 12.

Washington, May 12.—After a debate of several hours in the senate today on the window glass schedule of the tariff bill, Aldrich asked that the paragraph relating to glass manufactured articles that previously had been passed over were agreed to.

The senate considered sections that had been passed over until the iron ore paragraph was reached, when Crawford spoke at length upon the lack of wisdom of any tariff that encouraged the exhaustion of natural resources which could not readily be produced here. He insisted that there should be no tariff on iron ore, oil, lumber and coal.

Paynter spoke in favor of the removal of the duty of six cents a pound upon leaf tobacco as a means of freeing the tobacco growers from the control of the tobacco trust.

Tuesday, May 11.

Washington, May 11.—Substantial progress was made in the consideration of the tariff bill today, the amendments of the committee on finance being upheld in the senate by substantial majorities.

The schedule covering the products of lead was passed over upon the suggestion of Aldrich, because, he said, the finance committee desired to make some changes in the duties as previously recommended.

The committee's amendment striking out the house duty of one-half of 1 per cent per pound on refined nitrate of salt petre was agreed to. It is understood that that product will be placed upon the free list.

The house provision on sulphur was further amended so as to place crude sulphur on the free list and to provide for a duty of \$4 a ton on refined sulphur, the present law and the house bill providing for a duty of \$6 a ton. Cummins offered several amendments.

Persia Plans Reforms.

Washington, May 13.—That the Persian government will look to England and Russia for support in tranquilizing the disturbed situation in Persia and bringing about reforms contemplated under a constitutional form of government, is stated in dispatches from the American legation at Teheran. A new cabinet has been formed, general amnesty is to be granted to the political offenders and permission extended for political exiles to return.

to the window glass schedule, saying they were intended to prevent in the future any combination for putting up prices.

Without acting on the window glass schedule, the senate adjourned.

Monday, May 10.

Washington, May 10.—The ability of the Republican majority of the senate to uphold the recommendation of the committee on finance on the lead schedule in the tariff bill, which contains the Dingley rates in place of the lower duties fixed by the house, was fully demonstrated today when, by a vote of 35 to 44, the senate declined to reduce by 1/4 of a cent a pound the duty on pig lead, as recommended by the committee on finance. In this vote 11 Republicans voted with the Democrats and two Democrats with the Republicans. By a viva voce vote the senate adopted the rate of 2 1/2 cents a pound on pig lead, as recommended by the committee.

Chairman Aldrich said he regarded the vote as an endorsement of the action of the committee and expressed confidence that all the schedules of the committee would be upheld.

New Receiver for Lakeview.

Washington, May 15.—When Senator Bourne returns to Washington early next week, from New Bedford, Mass., he will take up the matter of the appointment of a successor to J. N. Watson, who has resigned the receivership of the Lakeview land office. No intimation is given as to who will be recommended, beyond the statement that the department requires all registers to have a knowledge of law, if they are not practicing attorneys. The department has not received Watson's letter of resignation, giving his reasons for giving up his office.

Employees Make Charges.

Washington, May 14.—Representative Ellis said today it was because of complaints made by school employees at the Umatilla Indian agency against Superintendent McFratridge that the latter had been relieved of charge of the school affairs, pending investigation into the charges. It is understood the complaint is based entirely on the superintendent's administrative methods and that nothing sensational is involved. Temporary Supervisor McClesney is in charge of the school.

Court Martial for Hains?

Washington, May 14.—Final adjudication of the case of the state of New York against Captain Peter C. Hains, Jr., for the murder of William E. Annis, will be awaited by the War department before it determines upon the attitude the military branch of the government will take. If the department decides there was a military offense, as distinct from a civil offense, the officer may be tried by court martial, irrespective of the action of the courts of New York.

Mint Director May Resign.

Washington, May 12.—Frank A. Leach, director of United States mints, practically admitted today that he was seriously considering resigning his post when he declared that the announcement that he would step out of office was "premature." Leach admitted that there was some talk among his friends to the effect that he would be offered the presidency of the People's Water company at Oakland, but he said no such offer had yet been made.

Cure Act of Court.

Washington, May 15.—Attorney General Wickens has indorsed the joint resolution introduced by the Pennsylvania delegation in congress to make effective the commodities clause of the Hepburn act against the coal carrying roads. This is regarded as an administration act to counteract the results of the Supreme court's decision last week, which was that the roads might transport the coal of the mining companies they control.

Shut Off Talk, Says Hill.

Washington, May 15.—"Prosperity will return to the country as soon as the oratorical steam is shut off on Capitol Hill," declared James J. Hill today. Hill had just emerged from the president's office, where he had been in conference with Taft. He declared that the tariff agitation was the only thing now preventing the return of prosperity. Permanent prosperity would come within a short time, he said.

Form Art Federation.

Washington, May 14.—Architects, artists, landscape gardeners, sculptors, men of science and others from organizations for the promotion of art, met in convention here today. The object of the gathering is the formation of a National Art Federation, and it is being held under the auspices of the National Academy of Art, of which James Pierpont Morgan is president. Vice President Sherman welcomed the guests.

Laboratory is Burned.

Washington, May 11.—The chemical laboratory of the geological survey here was badly damaged by fire today and only the prompt work of the firemen prevented the flames spreading to other departments. The fire was confined to the laboratory, but burned valuable minerals and chemicals.

New Nevada Marshal.

Washington, May 11.—President Taft today sent to the senate the nomination of Harry J. Humphreys, of Nevada, to be United States marshal of that state.

GENERAL STRIKE BEGUN.

French Postal Employees Throw Down Gauntlet to Government.

Paris, May 12.—The chamber of deputies, after a stormy session of four hours yesterday, adjourned the debate on the interpellations on the postal situation until May 13. The response of the employees was quick and decisive. Within half an hour the federal committee had issued an order for a general strike and the railway mail clerks walked out in a body. An hour later a meeting of 6,000 postal employees took up the battle and unanimously voted to strike. No great enthusiasm was shown, but determination to force the hand of the government was apparent. "The government is playing for time; we must not be caught napping," was the spirit of the meeting as expressed by Pauron, a dismissed postman and one of the most active organizers of the movement.

Dispatches were received from many cities announcing the support not only of the postal employees but of the various trades unions. The miners' congress, now in session at Lens, also pledged aid.

The president of the committee declared that today not a letter must leave Paris.

The general opinion is that the government, with the aid of the soldiers and the co-operation of the commercial bodies, will be able to maintain crippled services. The main danger is that violence may occur and that passions may be aroused by the appearance of the general Federation of Labor.

VICTORY FOR LUMBERMEN.

Interstate Commerce Commission Orders Lower Rates.

Washington, May 12.—Two decisions of importance to the railways and lumber interests of the Northwest were handed down today by the Interstate Commerce commission, the complainants against the railroads being victorious in each instance. Many months ago the Kalspell Lumber company and others and the Big Blackfoot Milling company and others engaged in the lumber manufacturing business in Montana, instituted complaints against the Great Northern Railway and other lines asking that they be accorded differentials on the rates established in the Spokane case. The differentials requested were an average of about 2 1/2 hundred pounds. In the opinions announced today, the committee sustains the contentions of the complainants and issued orders that the differentials are to be established by the railroads not later than August 1 next. The orders have the effect of large reductions in rates on all lumber products from the Montana mills both east and west, and will afford them an advantage of approximately 2 cents a hundred pounds over the mills in the Spokane group on Eastern shipments.

The rates established are required to be maintained by the railroads for at least two years.

NEW CABINET IS IN TROUBLE

Turkish Ministers and Military Men War Over \$8,000,000.

Constantinople, May 12.—A difference of opinion has arisen between Shekret Pasha, commander of the Constitutional army that entered Constantinople April 24, and the present cabinet.

Shekret Pasha is of the opinion that the cash found in the Yildiz Kiosk after the expulsion of Abdul Hamid should be used to pay the expenses of his army, while the ministers want the money turned into the national treasury. The funds is question now amount to almost \$8,000,000 in cash and immediately marketable securities. Shekret Pasha has one advantage in the controversy inasmuch as the money is in the possession of the military and has been deposited in the war office.

Djeved Bey, former governor general of the Adana vilayet, arrived here with the object of explaining to the minister of the interior the origin and cause of the race conflicts in his territory. Djeved Bey has been dismissed from office.

ASIA MINOR QUIETING DOWN

But Robberies and Attempts at Arson Still Continue.

Adana, May 11.—The situation here and throughout the province is improving. The government is beginning to restore the plunder and the people are returning to their homes, many of which are still standing. The military commander has sent troops into the country districts to maintain order and enable the refugee farmers to harvest their crops.

Many Armenians and a few Moslems are still in prison and even now deliberate attempts are made to burn the Armenian houses. Various robberies are recorded and valuables from a safe in a German flour mill have been carried away. Nevertheless, conditions are very different from what they were only a few days ago.

Air Craft Over Chicago.

Chicago, May 11.—Mysterious aeronauts passed over Chicago last night in two balloons, traveling rapidly southward. The lookout of the life saving station at the mouth of the Chicago river is believed to have first seen the aerial visitors. He reported his discovery to Captain Carland of the crew. Field and night glasses were brought to bear upon the airships but nothing could be described save the forms of what appeared to be two men. One of the balloons carried lights but the other was in darkness.

Mehammed Assum is Crown.

Constantinople, May 11.—Mehammed V, sultan of Turkey, was invested today with the sword of Othman. This ceremony is the last of those attending the coronation. No foreigners were allowed to witness the ceremony, which took place in the Mosque Ayoub, the only mosque in Constantinople where none but Turks are allowed to go. Foreigners were not even allowed to congregate around the entrance to the mosque.

Trust Chiefs Convicted.

Savannah, Ga., May 11.—"Guilty of conspiracy to monopolize interstate trade" was the verdict brought in by the jury in the case of the turpentine trust late tonight. The names of the two indicted corporations are omitted and the verdict applies only to five officers. The maximum sentence is a fine of \$5,000 and a term of one year in the penitentiary.

Mexican Town Wiped Out.

Acapulco, Mexico, May 12.—News was received here today that the town of Mazatlan, 20 kilometers from Chilpancingo, was almost totally destroyed by fire Friday. Many citizens escaped from their homes with nothing and hundreds are reported to be starving. A high wind fanned the flames and few buildings were left standing. Mazatlan was a town of 5,000 inhabitants.

EARTHQUAKE CLAUSE VOID

Insurance Companies Must Pay San Francisco Losses.

Test Case Is Won by Insured on Appeal—Insurance Policies Cover Fires Due to Dynamiting—Policy Holders Can Also Collect Interest for Three Years.

San Francisco, May 11.—An important decision relative to the earthquake clause of fire insurance policies was handed down today by the United States Circuit Court of Appeals. It directly affects several hundred pending suits against insurance companies for losses sustained in the great fire of April, 1906, and may result in the insured obtaining the principal of their policies with interest for three years.

The case decided today was that of the Richmond Coal company against the Commercial Union Assurance company of London, in which it was sought to recover about \$20,000 insurance on coal in the bunkers at Spear and Howard streets, which caught fire several hours after the earthquake of April 18, 1906, and was destroyed after smouldering for a month. The Circuit Court of Appeals reverses the judgment of the lower court, which was in favor of the insurance company.

The higher court decides that the earthquake was not the proximate cause of a fire which occurred after the earthquake shock, practically holding that an earthquake cannot cause a fire directly and that for an earthquake to be the indirect cause of a fire the blaze must follow immediately upon the quake.

The Appellate court also decided another very important point, which is that a fire following upon an explosion, such as one caused by dynamiting, is covered by the terms of the insurance policy.

TAFT WILL PRESS BUTTON.

To Open Gunnison Tunnel at Trans-Mississippi Congress.

Denver, May 11.—The Trans-Mississippi Commercial congress, which will be held in this city August 18 to 21, will bring together the largest gathering of eminent men ever assembled in the West. President Taft will be present and will press the button that will turn the waters into the Gunnison tunnel, the great government reclamation project. The governors of the Trans-Mississippi states will attend with but few exceptions.

Among the former presidents of the congress who will be present are William J. Bryan, David R. Francis, president of the St. Louis exposition, and John Henry Smith one of the apostles of the Mormon church.

The railroad interests of the West will be represented by E. H. Harriman, James J. Hill, E. P. Ripley, of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe, and President Winchell, of the Rock Island-Frisco system.

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