

# GAS EXPLOSION CAUSES DISASTER

## Pennsylvania Colliery Scene of Death and Ruin.

Seventeen Are Dead and at Least Sixteen Others Injured—Mine Burning Fiercely and Black Damp Prevents Systematic Rescue Work—Oxygen Tanks Being Used.

Wehrum, Pa., June 24.—As the result of an explosion of gas in mine No. 4 of the Lackawanna Coal & Coke company early today, 17 miners were killed and 16 injured. With the exception of one, those killed were foreigners. With few exceptions the injured were Americans.

Inspector Joseph Williams with a party entered the mine today to ascertain if there were any more victims. Superintendent A. M. Johns stated that while the mine has always been regarded as non-gaseous, the explosion was caused by a miner's open lamp igniting a pocket of gas.

The mine is burning fiercely in several places and deadly black damp is pouring from the mouth, effectively preventing systematic rescue work.

Large quantities of oxygen and many oxygen tanks have been requested from the Cambria Steel company of Johnstown, Pa., and the United States government mining and testing station at Pottsville.

Three men, seriously burned, succeeded in reaching the surface. They said that following the explosion there seemed to be a flash and then all was darkness. Calls for help and groans were heard by them as they made their way to the entrance, staggering over the bodies of comrades, who had fallen with the first shock.

### WOMEN ARE SAVAGES.

Famous Scientist Cause Stir at Chicago by Declaration.

Chicago, June 24.—"Woman, the eternal savage, whose only salvation lies in the fact that she always has been and always will be a savage," has been flayed again by the lash of Professor Frederick Starr, the famous scientist and ethnological explorer of the university of Chicago.

"Women are not civilized," according to the astute investigator. "Furthermore, they should not be civilized. What is more, they can't be," he continues, "for the fundamental nature of woman is barbaric, and it is better so, since the posterity, even the continuance of the race, depends upon the rigid assertion of a fundamental difference between man and woman."

"Woman's religion is also notably that of lower culture," he asserts. "She is always seeing signs in everything; she avoids having 13 at her table and starting on a journey on Friday; she is the chief supporter of spiritual mediums. She is the founder of new sects, in which the religious attitude of savagery is given high-sounding names and maintained by most select individuals; she dabbles constantly in the occult."

### OFFICE CLERK SUSPECTED.

Theft of \$30,000 From Mails Laid to Los Angeles Postal Employee.

Los Angeles, Cal., June 24.—The Federal grand jury today returned an indictment against an unnamed person in connection with the recent robbing of a registered mail sack, at the local postoffice, of \$30,000 in currency. It is said upon good authority to be directed against one of the clerks in the registry division of the postoffice.

The arrest may not be made for several days.

Fifteen thousand dollars of the stolen money was recently found hidden behind the postoffice safe in the main building. The money was shipped originally in four packages by the First National bank of Los Angeles to the bank of Bisbee, Arizona.

### Heir to Throne is Now 15.

London, June 24.—Prince Edward, oldest son of the prince of Wales, was 15 years old yesterday. His royal highness, having finished his course at the royal college at Osborne, is now to enter the Senior Naval college at Dartmouth, where he will spend a year or more learning practical seamanship. Prince Edward will not, however, make his career in the navy, as did his father. In the course of time he will enter the army, and probably will serve in more than one branch of the service.

### Menelik's Death Again Reported.

Rome, June 24.—Reports from Abyssinia state that King Menelik is dead and that Empress Taitu is in charge of the government. The messages say the king's death is being kept secret while the empress is organizing the new regime, and making her position secure. Officials here are not inclined to believe the report until it is verified, but it is generally believed that Menelik is in very poor health if not yet dead.

### Russians Fear Cholera.

St. Petersburg, June 24.—Because of the prevalence of cholera in this city the cabinet has decided that the government will undertake the drainage of St. Petersburg, and the reorganization of the water supply. Fifty million dollars must be realized by a loan for the work, which it is estimated will be completed in 15 years.

## AUSTRIA OUSTS STANDARD.

Will Build Reservoirs and Aid Home Refineries to Fight Octopus.

Vienna, June 25.—Owing to the decisive intervention of the imperial government, the Standard Oil company's plans for gaining control of the Galician petroleum industry have suffered a final and crushing defeat. The Austrians have withdrawn the contract with the company, which would have insured to the American concern a dominating position in the Galician oil fields, for which it has been striving many years.

The minister of finance has undertaken to build reservoirs and lease them to oil men at rents much less than those demanded by the Standard Oil company. Moreover, home refineries will escape the handicap of heavy rebates on the price of the raw product which the Standard was to have enjoyed under the contract now canceled.

The government expresses a hope that competition will be sharpened through abrogation of the contract, but it is probable that lively fight will follow for export trade, which vitally affects the Standard's position in Germany.

### CZAR GETS MONEY.

Compromises With Former Official Who Embezzled \$1,000,000.

Winnipeg, Man., June 25.—The famous case in which the czar of Russia brought action against Ivan Proskowakoff in the Winnipeg courts for the recovery of a large amount of money was ended today after a year and a half of litigation.

Ivan was a defaulting official in charge of the administration of a province in the trans-Caucasus. He absconded with more than \$1,000,000 years ago, made his way through China and Japan, where he purchased large quantities of Oriental goods, and finally reached America, opening stores in San Francisco, Vancouver and Winnipeg.

Anna Seaman, a talented and handsome Russian woman, alleged to be a nihilist, joined him here as his wife, and they kept house in luxurious fashion in a fashionable suburb. The Russian police eventually traced him to Winnipeg, but when the time came to make his arrest he was missing. His property was attached, and after a long fight, a compromise finally has been reached under which the property and merchandise is to be sold and the proceeds divided between the czar and representatives of the Proskowakoffs.

### SUTRO HEIRS GET MONEY.

Will Giving Vast Estate to Charity Is Annulled.

San Francisco, June 25.—The Supreme court invalidated today the will of the late Adolph Sutro and ordered that the large estate, valued at millions, and consisting of the Cliff House ranch in this city and the San Miguel rancho, be distributed among the heirs. The former property is situated along the beach and includes the famous Sutro heights and resorts.

Under the terms of the will the estate was to be held in trust until the last surviving child should die, after which the lands were to be sold and the proceeds given to charitable and educational institutions in this city. The court held that the failure to provide specifically for the distribution of the proceeds of the sale rendered that bequest invalid.

### MAY GRAFT ARM ON MAN.

Unique Operation Possible at Billings if Extra Arm Can Be Secured.

Billings, Mont., June 25.—The grafting of an arm from one man to another will take place in a hospital in this city should some unfortunate individual come along from whom the arm may be secured. J. G. Williamson was knocked down and robbed in the railroad yards at Park City several weeks ago. He was thrown beside the tracks and a train came along while he was unconscious and cut off one of his arms just below the elbow. County Physician Miller states that his arm is in good condition for grafting, and if a dying patient should happen along in time to supply the limb the operation will be performed.

### Robs State School Fund.

Denver, June 25.—Mark Woodruff, ex-state register of lands of Colorado, was arrested today at Plattville under an indictment charging embezzlement of \$15,000 from the sale of school lands. Woodruff was brought here this afternoon, arraigned in the District court and released under \$2,500 bond. Woodruff declares that he has received no promise of immunity. He refused to go into details as to where he has been since leaving Denver more than two years ago, but stated that he had been employed on various newspapers.

### Gotham Still Swelters.

New York, June 25.—Although the temperature in this city was slightly cooler than yesterday, the humidity was high and therefore conditions were extremely uncomfortable. The highest point reached during the day was 89 above zero. Fifty persons were prostrated by the heat. There were 6 deaths from that cause. The hot wave yesterday was blamed for at least 12 deaths and more than a score of prostrations.

### American Bank Opened.

Pekin, June 25.—The Pekin branch of the International Banking corporation, the first American bank in the East to join the group of British, French, German and Japanese institutions in existence here since 1902, was opened here today.

# A BRIEF DAILY REPORT ON THE WORK OF CONGRESS

## Saturday, June 26.

Washington, June 26.—The senate today failed to conclude its debate on the schedules of the tariff bill, though several provisions were disposed of.

A motion by Bacon to free agricultural implements on the free list was rejected by a decisive vote of 26 to 45.

Davis offered an amendment placing lumber on the free list and in the face of a protest from Aldrich, a vote was taken. The amendment was lost, 18 to 37.

A duty of 5 cents a square yard was placed on tracing cloth. The duty on borate material was increased from 1½ cents to 2 cents a pound. Other schedules were fixed as follows:

On woven fabrics composed of asbestos, 40 per cent ad valorem; on yellow prussiate of soda, 2 cents a pound, and on chloride of soda, 2 cents instead of 1½ cents a pound. Sulphite of ammonia was placed on the free list.

The wool pulp provision also received attention.

Today's amendments were in lieu of all previous senate changes in the schedule. They provide for the free importation of mechanically ground wood pulp except from countries which place obstacles in the way of the exportation of wood or pulp to the United States. In such cases, upon proclamation of the president, a duty of one-twelfth of a cent a pound may be imposed.

## Friday, June 25.

Washington, June 25.—This was another of the senate's active working days and by the time the session closed at 7 o'clock tonight so many schedules had been considered and disposed of that Aldrich freely predicted that by tomorrow night all would be out of the way, leaving the senate free to begin consideration of the corporation tax and income tax amendments. Beginning the session with an increase of 5 per cent over the house rate of 35 per cent ad valorem on harness, the senate marched steadily along throughout the nine hours of its sitting, indulging in little speechmaking and acting upon many important provisions. Among the changes made were:

An increase of duty on scrap iron from 50 cents to \$2.50 per ton, thus placing it on the same level as pig iron; an increase of one-fourth of a cent per pound over the house rates on wire nails; an increase of from 4 to 6 cents per pound on monazite sand and other articles used in making gas mantles; and the substitution of specific for ad valorem rates on files, rasps, etc.

## Thursday, June 24.

Washington, June 24.—A short time before adjournment at 7 o'clock tonight the senate returned to the consideration of the tariff schedules after devoting the greater part of the day to listening to prepared speeches.

Amendments were adopted increasing the duty on shoes from 15 to 20 per cent ad valorem and increasing the duty on sole leather from 5 to 10 per cent ad valorem, the lower figure representing the house rate in each case. An amendment increasing the duty on colloid was also adopted.

Beveridge discussed an amendment proposed by him enlarging the size of tobacco packages. He contended that while the size of the packages had been reduced during the Spanish-American war to compel the purchaser to pay the war tax, those sizes had not been restored and the prices had not been reduced, notwithstanding the removal of the tax.

## Wednesday, June 23.

Washington, June 23.—In an unexpected short order the senate today disposed of the lumber schedule and then agreed upon the rates of duty on pineapples.

Aldrich asked that the lumber schedule receive first attention. He had no sooner taken his seat than McCumber, who has been a persistent advocate of free lumber, presented an amendment reducing the finance committee's rate of \$1.50 per thousand on sawed lumber to the house rate of \$1 per thousand. This was recognized generally as a test proposition, as sawed lumber has been the bone of contention from the beginning. The North Dakota senator did not find it worth while to enter into any argument.

The result was another triumph for the Aldrich rates, the vote standing 24 for and 44 against the reduced rates.

It had been expected that the coal schedule would be debated at great length, but it was passed after little more than an hour's discussion. A new schedule was presented by Aldrich as chairman of the finance committee, reducing the house rate on bituminous coal from 67 cents per ton to 60 cents and eliminating the house reciprocity clause.

## Tuesday, June 22.

Washington, June 22.—Late today the senate reached a vote on the hide schedule and a ter several amendments had been defeated the amendment of the finance committee fixing a duty of 15 per cent on hides was agreed to by a vote of 46 to 39. This is the rate of

### Farmer Wilson May Retire.

Washington, June 24.—It is rumored today that James Wilson, of Iowa, secretary of agriculture, will retire at the end of this year. While no authoritative announcement of the selection of a successor to the veteran secretary has been made, it is understood that the name of Charles E. Scott, of Kansas, is receiving serious consideration. Scott is the representative from the Second district of Kansas and is serving his fifth term in the house.

the present law, but under the ruling of the Treasury department is applicable only to hides weighing more than 25 pounds. The house placed all hides on the free list.

McLaurin undertook to have the provision amended so as to make the duty apply to hides weighing less than 25 pounds, but failed, his amendment being voted down, 31 to 48. An amendment by Stone placing not only hides but many other products on the free list was also lost.

Aldrich, on behalf of the finance committee, brought in the committee's new lumber schedule and also a number of amendments relating to linoleum and oilcloth. The committee proposed a rate of \$1.50 per 1,000 on sawed lumber, a 50-cent increase over the house rates.

More than six hours were devoted to debate, which began with an argument by McCumber for a duty on hides. He was sustained by Gamble and Heyburn. They took the position that the effort to make hides free was solely in the interest of the manufacturers.

## Monday, June 21.

Washington, June 21.—The tariff bill amendment of the finance committee taking hides from the free list and restoring the Dingley rate of 15 per cent ad valorem was before the senate all day and it probably will not be disposed of before late tomorrow. Warren, of Wyoming, and Carter, of Montana, supported the provision and in vigorous language attacked the attitude of the free hide advocates, while Page, of Vermont, defended the action of the house in placing hides on the free list.

Washington, June 21.—Avaluing themselves of the presence of a quorum, the house leaders today obtained action on several important matters. Principal among these was the conference report on the bill providing for the taking of the 13th census.

### Roads Must Be Watered.

Washington, June 25.—Representative Hawley has been advised by Secretary Ballinger that settlers on the Klamath irrigation project, whose lands are crossed by public roads, must pay for water for the roadways included in their farms, though exception is made in the case of lands crossed by railroads or big irrigation ditches. The secretary also advises Representative Hawley that no serious difficulty can arise from the fact that the government surveys and plats of the units on the Klamath project fail to coincide with actual charts of the farms.

### Send Figurehead to Salem.

Washington, June 26.—Representative Hawley today recommended to the Navy department that the figurehead of the battleship Oregon, which he understands is to be removed from the ship, in accordance with the new department policy, be presented to the state of Oregon. He also telegraphed Governor Benson to ascertain whether the state is in a position to pay the cost of transporting the figurehead to the capitol at Salem. He expects replies to both communications in a few days.

### Says Hides Not Raw Material.

Washington, June 23.—Senator Dick, of Ohio, made public today a letter he had written in reply to communications from manufacturers. As a protectionist, the senator said, he strove for consistency and believed in protecting all American industries—those of the farm as well as those of the factory, the shop and the mine. As to hides, he contended, that to call them raw materials as an argument for admitting them free of duty was silly.

### Restores Blue Delivery Stamp.

Washington, June 22.—Postmaster General Hitchcock has decided to discontinue the new green special delivery stamp and return to the familiar blue stamp showing a boy mounted on a bicycle. In the rush of handling mails, many letters bearing the new stamp have escaped treatment as special delivery matter because of its similarity in size and color to the 1 cent stamp.

### No Action on Devlin.

Washington, June 25.—The subcommittee which has been considering the confirmation of the reappointment of Robert Devlin as United States district attorney at San Francisco, reported to the senate judiciary committee today without recommendation. Senator Files, of Washington, chairman of the subcommittee, said that the committee was waiting for further evidence before taking action.

### Ellis Recommends Astoria Lad.

Washington, June 25.—Representative Ellis today recommended the appointment of Edwin T. Short, of Astoria, as midshipman at Annapolis naval academy, with three alternates to be appointed in case Short shall fail to pass the examination. The alternates are Oliver B. Cardwell, of Portland; Henry N. Fowler, of Portland, and Hawley Bean, of Pendleton.

### Who Wants Census Job?

Washington, June 25.—Neither Representative Hawley nor Representative Ellis has yet recommended any candidate for appointment as census supervisors in their respective districts, because no appointments will be made until after the census bill now before congress has been signed by the president. Meantime applications are in order.

## DRIVE JAPS OFF.

Planters Propose Drastic Measures to Prevent Repeated Strikes.

Honolulu, June 23.—The work of getting a jury to try five of the Japanese strike leaders charged with conspiracy in connection with the strike of laborers on the sugar plantations began today.

Several of the leaders stated today the strike would be resumed on the Ewa and Waiialua plantations July 1, when they would again call out 3,000 Japanese who have returned to work. They declared that all the Japanese in the islands are affiliated in one large organization.

Representatives of the planters declare that, if the threatened plan of intermittent strikes on alternate plantations, enabling those working to support the large number on strike, is carried out, the strikers will be ordered off the plantations. This would mean that the Japanese would have to vacate the homes furnished by the planters and would be homeless.

The Japanese training squadron is expected here tomorrow. The planters' association has received from its agents at Washington, D. C., encouraging reports regarding a plan to import efficient labor from Europe through immigration channels.

Sugar planters here resent the statements of a number of Spaniards who departed from the islands some time since and are reported stranded in San Francisco, where they complained of unfair treatment. The planters declare that the men were given houses, lands, wages and other perquisites usually granted to plantation laborers, and that they left against the advice of the Spanish consul to go to Mexico, lured by false promises.

## HIS SEAT RICKETY.

Reichstag May Force Chancellor Von Buelow to Resign.

Berlin, June 23.—The political situation for the crown is extremely confused by today's events. The reichstag's adoption of a quotation tax, which Chancellor von Buelow declared the government would never accept, and the finance committee's rejection of an inheritance tax, which he declared to be an essential part of the central scheme of finance reform and which the Conservatives and Clericals are determined to defeat, leaves the chancellor's position precarious.

Many politicians think the chancellor will be compelled to resign, unless he has the courage to dissolve the reichstag and appeal to the country.

Dissolution can take place only on joint action by the emperor and the Federal council. The proposal to impose a yearly tax on bonds and stocks was adopted by 203 votes against 155. The tax is to be calculated on the basis of the average quotation for the preceding year and the rate of interest on this amount which the current dividend yields. The tax will then be deducted by the companies from the dividends before payment.

## WHEAT DOES WELL.

Colorado Farmer Pays Debts on Irrigated Land From Dry Farm.

Longmont, Colo., June 23.—Twelve hundred bushels of wheat harvested from 60 acres of dry farm land and sold for \$1.32 a bushel.

This is the result of dry farming on George F. Givens' farm near here. He bought the land from the railroad at \$4.50 an acre. In 1907 he got 2,990 bushels of wheat from 60 acres. Last year, which was the driest in many years in that vicinity, he threshed the 1,200 bushels mentioned above. Now he is building a fine barn and paying off the debts he contracted on his irrigated quarter section with the proceeds of his dry farm wheat.

Samples of the grains raised under similar conditions in all parts of Colorado will be exhibited at the International Exposition of Dry Farm Products, which will be held at Billings, Montana, next October 25 to 29, in connection with the Fourth Dry Farming congress.

### Radium for California Hospital.

San Mateo, Cal., June 23.—In a tiny bottle kept under lock and key in a strong box at the Red Cross Guild hospital in this city is a minute particle of radium, the gift of Mrs. Whitelaw Reid, wife of the American ambassador to the court of St. James. This particle of radium, guarded so jealously by the hospital authorities, is valued at about \$10,000. Its price per troy pound would be \$8,000,000. Mrs. Reid's gift will be used in a series of experiments and investigations in the treatment of cancer.

### Treasure Ship is Found.

Chester, Pa., June 23.—Silver was found today by the crew of the government boat Cataract, which has been working in the vicinity of Fort Mifflin in an endeavor to raise the contents of the supposed English treasure boat that was sunk during the Revolutionary war. The dredger Heligate will be sent to Fort Mifflin to raise the sunken boat. It is believed that the hold of the vessel contains many thousands of dollars in gold sent to pay soldiers.

### Masked Men Rob Messenger.

Green Bay, Wis., June 23.—Two masked men held up Night Messenger Kade, of the United States Express company last night, securing \$5,000 and making their escape. Kade was counting the money in the transfer room here when the holdup took place. There is no clue to the identity of the bandits.

# LUMBER OUTPUT SMALLER IN 1908

## United States Produces 17 Per Cent Less in Consequence of Panic.

Washington Leads All, With Oregon in Eighth Place—Louisiana is Now Second—Yellow Pine Leads All Kinds of Lumber Production—Cypress Also Very Useful.

Washington, June 22.—During the year 1908 31,231 sawmills in the United States manufactured 33,239,369,000 feet of lumber, according to a preliminary report just issued by the bureau of the census. These mills also cut 12,106,483,000 shingles and 2,986,684,000 lath. Lumber manufacturing, like every other industry, felt the effects of the business depression which began in October, 1907. Consequently the production in 1908 was below that for the previous year. In 1907 the cut of 28,850 sawmills was 40,256,154,000 feet, the highest production ever recorded. Notwithstanding, therefore, that in 1908 reports were received from 8 per cent more mills than in 1907, the decrease in lumber cut reported by them was slightly over 17 per cent.

Washington, as for several years past, still ranks first among the states in lumber production, its cut in 1908 being 2,915,928,000 feet—a decrease of 22.8 per cent from the cut in 1907. Louisiana ranks second, with 2,722,421,000 feet, a decrease of 250,000,000 feet, or 8.4 per cent from the cut in 1907.

Mississippi was the third state in lumber production in 1908, with a total of 1,861,016,000 feet—a decrease of 11 per cent from the cut in 1907.

Arkansas ranked fourth, with 1,656,991,000 feet—a decrease of nearly 17 per cent, and Wisconsin fifth, with 1,613,315,000 feet against 2,003,279,000 feet in 1907.

In Texas, where the lumber industry is confined almost exclusively to yellow pine, the falling off was very heavy. The total cut of the state in 1908 was 1,524,008,000 feet—a decrease of 31.6 per cent from the cut in 1907.

Eight other states manufactured more than 1,000,000,000 feet each of lumber last year. In the order of importance they were: Michigan, Oregon, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Alabama, North Carolina and West Virginia. California and Maine, other states which reported more than 1,000,000,000 feet each in 1907, went just below that figure in 1908.

## DRY FARM EXPERIMENTS.

Nevada Will Have Exhibit for Coming Dry Farming Congress.

Billings, Mont., June 22.—Dry farming experiments will be carried on under the supervision of the state authorities in the northeastern part of Nevada and when the Fourth Dry Farming congress meets at Billings next October 26-28 it is expected that the delegates will hear of great advances in the reclamation of non-irrigable lands in that state.

A commission just appointed by the governor has just selected a site for a dry farm experiment station in Pleasant valley, 16 or 18 miles south of Elko, where the ranch of John W. Thompson, containing 160 acres, has been secured by the state. The quarter is fenced and about 30 acres are under cultivation. There is an orchard of about 150 trees, including apples, pears, plums and cherries, and a two acre patch of berries are on the place. The soil is rich and of great depth and is considered excellently adapted to dry farming operations. It is reported that Mr. Thompson last year raised 1,000 sacks of potatoes, and that all kinds of vegetables gave good returns, cabbage heads running as high as 18 pounds.

It is the purpose of the Nevada Experimental association to demonstrate on this farm that dry farming methods can be applied on the millions of acres of bench lands in the state.

### Public May Buy Airship.

London, June 22.—The idea of a public fund for the purchase of an airship is being strongly supported by Secretary Haldane, who says the War office will accept the gift. A large list of subscriptions is already announced. It is stated by the defense commission that a project is on foot to sail from Paris to London this summer a powerful airship now approaching completion. The ship has two propellers and two motors, each of 220 horsepower, and is capable of carrying 25 passengers.

### Yale Teaches Immorality.

New York, June 22.—Harvard, Princeton and Yale are teaching immorality and disrespect for all mankind is being taught at these colleges, said Bishop James A. McGaul, of Trenton, N. J., in his address tonight to the graduating class of St. Francis Xavier college. He condemned what he said was the desire of Catholic parents to get their children into society through their associates in the great non-sectarian universities.

### Strikebreakers Go Far.

New Orleans, June 22.—Seventy-five laborers from sugar plantations of Porto Rico passed through New Orleans today en route to Hawaii, where they will take the places of striking plantation laborers. Similar parties, it is said, will follow.