

68 DEAD IN A MEXICAN MINE

Violation of Rules by Smoker Cause of Terrific Explosion.

Sixty-Five Bodies Removed From Mine and Three Die in Hospitals—Forty Injured—Many Escapes Due to Working Where Foul Air Did Not Penetrate.

Laredo, Texas, Feb. 3.—One of the greatest disasters in the history of Mexico mining took place today in the Palau coal mine, at Las Esperanzas, Mexico.

The toll of human life which paid the penalty of negligence on the part of some miner, according to the latest reports, is placed at 68. After an official report showing 63 dead, twelve additional bodies were recovered, bringing the total to 65, and three others have died in the hospital, making the grand total of victims thus far 68.

The explosion occurred in No. 3 shaft of the coal mine of the Esperanzas Mining company and is attributed to the ignition of gas from the flame of the cigarette of a miner. Smoking is contrary to the rules.

The miners, mostly Mexicans and Japanese, had assumed their places just after 7 o'clock. At 8:30 o'clock those at work above the ground heard a loud explosion and almost instantly a vast cloud of dust and smoke issued from the mouth of the mine. When the onlookers realized the meaning of the disaster, assistance was immediately forthcoming.

As soon as the air in the shaft could be purified sufficiently to permit rescuers to descend, many volunteers were ready to risk their lives in an elevator to succor their stricken brothers below.

Cages were sent down, loaded to capacity with miners bent upon rescue. On the first and second levels everything was found intact and the men working in these places were safe. The rescue party went down to the third level and as soon as the air could be sufficiently cleared they entered the drifts and began a search for the dead and injured. Scattered about in various positions in the workings they found the bodies of the men suffocated.

The rescues worked in relays. After six hours' work 53 bodies had been removed to hospitals. The injured owe their escape to the fact that they were working where they were protected from the rush of foul air. State representatives sent a detailed report of the explosion and a deduction as to the probable cause to the governors of Coahuila and Sinaloa. They instructed the local authorities to take such action as they deemed necessary and to investigate thoroughly the cause of the disaster.

The Palau mine is one of the best equipped coal mines in the Republic. It has an adequate ventilating system and is provided with electric lights. Mining officials are at a loss to account for the presence of mine damp in the workings.

Half of Force is Spared.

Drakesboro, Ky., Feb. 3.—Thirty-three miners are known to have been killed, two are missing and 15 are injured as a result of the explosion in the Browder coal mine near here yesterday. There were 100 men in the two wings of the mine at the time of the explosion, but the 50 in the west wing escaped uninjured. Those in the east wing felt the full force of the explosion. One or two of the injured are in a critical condition. Of the dead about half were white men, all Americans, and the remainder negroes.

U. S. May Dissolve Big Firm.

Chicago, Feb. 3.—Oliver E. Pagin, special assistant attorney general, did not leave here today, as was expected, and it is said he will remain for some time. The presence of Mr. Pagin in the Federal building gave rise to reports that the government would file a civil suit to dissolve the National Packing company within a short time. The Federal grand jury continued its investigation into books and documents of the National Packing company.

Primero Victims Number 75.

Primero, Colo., Feb. 3.—Monday's mine explosion in the main mine of the Colorado Fuel & Iron company claimed a total of 75 victims and left 35 widows and 65 fatherless children. These facts were determined late this afternoon, when the official canvass of the camp was completed and the names of the missing men checked with the company's pay roll. Fifty bodies have been recovered. No opinion was expressed as to the cause.

Board Discusses Claim.

The Hague, Feb. 3.—Before The Hague court of arbitration today representatives of the United States and Venezuela exchanged memoranda on the dispute regarding the claim of the Orinoco Steamship company against the government of Venezuela. The steamship company, a New Jersey corporation, filed a claim for the alleged arbitrary repudiation of certain concessions by the Castro government.

Wells Fargo Stock Sold.

New York, Feb. 3.—It was said in authoritative circles today that the American Express company had purchased the Southern Pacific Railroad company's holdings of stock in the Wells-Fargo Co., which is taken to indicate that a merger of the two express companies is under way.

MCCARTHY REIGNS SUPREME

San Francisco's Mayor Sweeps Away All Trace of Precedents.

San Francisco, Feb. 4.—San Francisco is in the hands of Mayor McCarthy and his cohorts. Commencing with the throwing out of office of members of the board of police commissioners and following that up with the decapitation of the members of the board of education, the newly-elected mayor practically completed his reign of terror the fore part of the week when he lopped off the heads of 15 more of the Taylor commissioners, and in the early hours of the morning had 15 of his own men sworn in. Neither the ousted commissioners nor any of their attorneys knew what had happened until long after the transformation had been effected.

It is not the beginning of the end, but it marks what Mayor McCarthy said upon his installation into office—that he proposes to run the city after his own manner. In short, he wants to control absolutely and without question, the patronage of the city, and failing to convince the commissioners that they should resign, he has brought it about by more tyrannical methods.

Saloonmen, members of the Royal Arch, a liquor dealers' association, and heads of various union bodies of San Francisco, make up, for the most part, the newly appointed commissions, so that it is easy to see who is going to rule the roost for the next two years, at least.

It is going far, perhaps, to say that San Francisco is to be the Paris of America, but the complete disregard that McCarthy has shown for the intent of the charter, to say nothing more, is proof positive that he will permit nothing to stand in his road.

His motto might easily be "rule or ruin." Already there are indications that the ousted commissioners will not stand idly by. Some of them, it is true, have decided to quit peacefully, but others, and notably the board of education, has decided to test in the courts the right of the mayor to turn them out of office. Action in this test case was begun today.

TARIFF WAR AVERTED.

Agreement Reached With Germany on all But Meat Inspection.

Washington, Feb. 4.—Concessions by both the United States and Germany have averted a threatened tariff war.

Negotiations have been concluded between the two countries which settle the question of a minimum and maximum rate with the exception of the cattle and dressed meat issue. This was eliminated from the present negotiations and will be taken up later in separate diplomatic representations. Under the agreement made today American minimum rates will be exchanged for the entire minimum list of Germany. The result is considered advantageous to both countries.

The State department today issued a statement, which in part is as follows: "By the understanding arrived at, there will be no tariff war and no interruption of the enormous commerce passing between the two countries. The magnitude of this business appears from the statement that in the calendar year just closed the direct interchange of commodities between Germany and the United States exceeded \$409,000,000, and allowances being made for German importations through other countries, the actual volume is possibly in excess of \$500,000,000.

Honest Engineer Disliked.

Chicago, Feb. 4.—City Engineer John Ericson told the Merriam commission, which is investigating municipal expenditures, that he had never been encouraged by the officials above him in his efforts to prevent the wasting of city funds. He said that on one occasion when he said \$300,000 was too much to pay for a new pumping station, Mayor Busse said that the sooner he (Ericson) got out of the city work the better it would be for him. The mayor emphatically denied this. Ericson expects to be fired.

Valuable Witness Found.

Chicago, Feb. 4.—That the government has found a valuable and well informed witness in the beef trust case in the person of a former trusted official of a large packing company was the report about the federal building.

This man is said to be on a pension at present but has consented to tell the jury all he knows in return for immunity. Two more employees of Swift & Co. were subpoenaed today, and others, it is said, will follow.

Glare, Report; Meteor?

Quincy, Ill., Feb. 4.—A meteor is supposed to have struck near here at 1:30 o'clock this morning. It aroused the whole city and caused buildings to tremble. Those about the streets saw a great glare in the sky, and heard a report as of an explosion immediately followed.

Burlington, Ia., Feb. 4.—Reports from Keokuk and Hannibal state that at 1:30 o'clock this morning the Western sky suddenly was lighted with a great glare and a minute later was followed by a heavy shock that caused the earth to tremble. It is supposed to have been a meteor, but may have been caused by the explosion of dynamite in a mine.

Body Lashed to Mast.

Crisfield, Md., Feb. 4.—The body of Captain W. A. Bradshaw, of the oyster boat *Ellie Smith*, was found lashed to the mast of his wrecked vessel today. The crew of three men are missing.

A BRIEF DAILY REPORT ON THE WORK OF CONGRESS

Washington, Feb. 5.—The controversy over the use of benzoate of soda as a food preservative was resumed today before the house committee on expenditures in the department of agriculture.

Representative Moss, of Indiana, attacked the referee board, which had upheld the use of benzoate of soda against the decision of Dr. H. W. Wiley, chief of the bureau of chemistry at the agricultural department.

"If Dr. Wiley is not competent to pass upon these matters he should be discharged," said Mr. Moss.

"There are two sides to that," replied Mr. McCabe, who added that he knew of no manufacturer who had abandoned the use of benzoate of soda. Several manufacturers who did so temporarily after Dr. Wiley's decision resumed after the board's favorable ruling, he said.

The rivers and harbors bill is attracting the acute attention of practically all of congress just now, as it is understood that it will be reported out either Tuesday or Wednesday. Every representative wants to know just how large a share of the "pork barrel" is to go to his district. There was an all day session of the house committee today to hear statements in behalf of a lot of interests from different parts of the country.

The question whether the governor of one state shall be required to extradite a person, under charge of crime, on the information process, as well as the indictment process, was under discussion in the senate more than two hours today. No action was taken on the bill under consideration, which would compel recognition of the information process.

Senator Flint introduced in the senate today a bill appropriating \$1,000,000 for the purchase of a site and the erection in Los Angeles of a subtreasury building, which shall be used for a custom house, appraiser's building and an assay office.

Washington, Feb. 4.—Senator Heyburn today completed his criticism of the postal savings bank bill in the senate, but aside from his speech, little progress was made in the consideration of the measure. It will be before the senate again tomorrow and Senator Carter, who is in charge, expects a vote not later than next Thursday.

Mr. Heyburn declared that the bill had been drawn so loosely that, if enacted, it inevitably must result in scandal. It should, he said, be safeguarded more carefully than some past legislation, and he instanced the corporation tax law, which, he said, already had been proved unsatisfactory. Declaring his objections to the bill, he said that there was no provision for securing deposits, that in providing for secrecy regarding deposits the bill made it impossible to find investment for the postal savings fund.

"Never in years has any session of congress done as much work as the present one," said Representative Dwight of New York, Republican whip in the house, in a statement today. "Congress has been in session less than six weeks since December 1 and in that time the house has passed the army, urgent deficiency, District of Columbia and agriculture appropriation bills. We have also redeemed two pledges of party platform by passing bills to establish a bureau of mines and mining and to admit Arizona and New Mexico.

Washington, Feb. 3.—Secretary Ballinger was criticised on the floor of the senate today for sending a communication to the senate inclosing a bill providing for an insane asylum in Alaska.

Although Mr. Ballinger said he transmitted the measure in obedience to the direction of the president, Senators Heyburn and Bacon succeeded in obtaining annulment of reference in the bill to the committee on territories, on the ground that neither a cabinet officer, nor even the president himself, had authority to introduce a bill in the senate.

Senator Elkins today made bitter complaint in the senate concerning the treatment he received in connection with his resolution providing for an investigation into the high cost of food.

He charged Senator Aldrich with a desire to shield the tariff law and the trusts in the inquiry, and he intimated that hereafter he might be an "insurgent" if his wishes did not receive more respectful consideration.

The discussion was precipitated by Senator Stone, who soon after the reporting of the Lodge resolution to investigate the cost of living, in mock solemnity, raised the question whether the committee on contingent expenses had yet reached the Elkins resolution which had been adopted last month.

Responding, Mr. Keen said that probably the measure would be amended and reported soon.

Taking the floor, Mr. Elkins complained that the finance committee had reported the Lodge resolution after a day's consideration, whereas his own measure had been held up for a month.

After a short but torrid open hearing.

National Coal Reserve Sought

Washington, Feb. 3.—The coal fields of Alaska are the subject of a lengthy bill introduced in the house by Delegate Wickersham, of Alaska, providing that 15,000 acres of the best coal bearing lands of Alaska be set aside by the United States in perpetuity as the national coal reserve. Provision is made for the withdrawal of 5,000 acres each from the Katalla and Matanuska districts, and 5,000 more from the Kenai and Peninsula areas.

ing, followed by an executive session of an hour, also filled with discussion, the house committee on merchant marine and fisheries today voted, 10 to 7, to report favorably the administration ship subsidy bill, as introduced by Representative Humphrey, of Washington.

Washington, Feb. 2.—A lively political debate occupied nearly the entire time of the house today in defense of the bill to amend the census law so as to provide an enumeration of animals slaughtered in country butchering establishments and of hides produced in such establishments.

Mr. Crumpacker, of Indiana, explained that this amendment was to give accurate information on the subject, upon which there has been much political discussion. With this amendment and others providing for an enumeration of lands under irrigation and in relation to irrigation projects, the bill was passed.

Should the postal savings bank bill become a law it would greatly endanger, if not destroy, incomes to the amount of hundreds of millions of dollars, declared Senator Heyburn today.

The Idaho Senator was engaged in a general discussion of the bill in connection with an amendment presented by Senator Smoot for the regulation of the removal of postal savings deposits from banks.

He contended that, inasmuch as the fund under the bill would reach fully \$700,000,000, it would enable the board of trustees to dictate the rate of interest throughout the country.

"In other words, the government purposes to go into the loaning business," he said, "and intends to fix the rate of interest at 2 1/4 per cent." In view of this fact, he asked what the effect would be on incomes derived from funds invested at 5 and 6 per cent.

It was announced at the State department today that either a complete agreement or a rupture between Germany and the United States on the present tariff negotiations might be expected tomorrow.

Washington, Feb. 1.—A running fire of criticism was poured into the forestry department in the house today when the agriculture appropriation bill was under consideration. The session was devoted to the forestry schedule.

Representative Taylor of Colorado questioned Chairman Scott as to the reason for including in the forest reserve lands without forest on them.

Mr. Scott said ex-Chief Forester Pinchot had asserted that such lands could be planted with trees.

"Do you know," declared Mr. Taylor, "that at elevations of 7,000 and 8,000 feet it will take 500 years to grow a forest, and at higher altitudes the time required will be longer?"

In his own state, he said, land worth \$200 or \$300 an acre was included in the forest reserves.

However, in no instance was an appropriation for the bureau of forestry reduced by the house.

To protect the government postal employees on the trains and prevent the loss of mail by fire, Representative Carey, of Washington, is in favor of the government buying its own mail cars and contracting with the railroads for their hauling. He has introduced a bill that authorizes the postmaster general to proceed with the work of contracting for these cars to put them in use as rapidly as possible and to have all railroads fully equipped with them by 1915.

Washington, Jan. 31.—Postal savings banks were discussed at length in the senate today. Carter of Montana, leading off with an argument in favor of the bill for which he is sponsor and Heyburn hinting plainly that he would oppose it. Saying that the United States is the only first-class power which has no postal banks, and recalling frequent platform pledges, Carter proceeded to answer objections.

He denied that postal banks would menace the present banking system, saying the latter could not reach remote rural districts. He said postal banks would encourage thrift, draw money out of hiding and induce foreigners to deposit money in them, instead of sending it abroad. He contended that the new system would only be an elaboration of the use to which money orders are now put, that it was as constitutional as the money order system and would be a source of strength to private banks.

The army appropriation bill, as reported to the senate today, carries \$95,440,568, which is only \$142,860 more than is appropriated in the bill as it passed the house. The law for the present year carried more than \$102,000,000.

Land Grant Report Waits.

Washington, Feb. 2.—In response to the Chamberlain resolution, regarding the suits to set aside Oregon land grants, Attorney General Wickersham sent a letter to the senate today, stating: "To comply with the resolution, it is necessary to secure certain detailed information from Oregon. This information has been sent for, and as soon as it is received the report will be transmitted to the senate." He added the information was being gathered.

Senators Ask for Report.

Washington, Feb. 1.—Senators Bourne and Chamberlain united today in a request to the life saving service to cause an investigation to be made by an unprejudiced officer into the wreck of the *Czarina* in Coos bay. The senators also requested the improvement of facilities and service along the Oregon coast.

CEREAL TRUST FORMING.

Twelve Biggest Breakfast Food Makers May Combine.

Chicago, Feb. 2.—The hungry public, turning from prohibitive meat and other foodstuffs to cereals, is apparently in for another hard shock, as there is every indication that a great combine in cereals is on the verge of completion to be followed immediately by a general boost in prices. Snowballs and sand seem about the only things left that cannot be cornered.

Advices from Minneapolis today and tonight are to the effect that a great holding company is forming to take over several of the largest cereal factories in the United States—in short, to form a trust in breakfast foods. According to these reports, these companies probably would be in the combine:

Northwestern Cereal corporation. Minneapolis Cereal & Milling Co. Fruen Wheat Food & Milling Co. Minne-Paul Cereal & Milling Co. Malta Vita Food Co., Battle Creek. Pettijohn Pure Food Co. All Iowa plants of the United Cereal Co.

It is further declared that in addition to these concerns, seven white flour mills in the territory adjacent to Minneapolis would be in the merger and that there was a possibility that two of the large baking concerns of Minneapolis also would be included.

Thomas W. Hicks, of the National Financing Company, said today: "There 12 cereal-producing firms in this country, where one holding company could handle the entire output. We seek at present to combine these 12 firms and avoid the throat-cutting which has been going on for years and which has caused many failures. For instance, Battle Creek, Mich., which has been the center of cereal-producing, has been the victim of 42 failures in three years.

"The way things are going at present, the cereal output is a losing proposition for the food companies. It is a continual fight for contracts and the result is that the jobber is the only one who makes the big money.

LUMBER PRICES ADVANCE.

Demand by Railroads Given as Cause of Rise.

Los Angeles, Feb. 2.—Rough Oregon pine lumber has advanced \$1, to \$22 and \$26 a thousand feet. Shingles have advanced 25 cents, to \$2.25 and \$3 a thousand. Shakes are up, \$2, to \$20 a thousand.

"The reason for the advance in rough Oregon pine," said J. F. Mullin, of the Montgomery & Mullin Lumber company, today, "is the heavy demand of the railroad companies for this lumber. Not only in the United States is the demand heavy, but it extends to China, where they are doing an immense amount of railroad building.

"The railroads use so much lumber that they practically make the market. When there is a great amount of railroad building the price of lumber goes up.

"The outlook for the lumber business is higher prices. There has been a tendency toward higher prices since the slump caused by the financial depression of a little more than a year ago."

Three More Bodies Found.

Marshfield, Or., Feb. 2.—Three more bodies of the *Czarina* wreck victims were found today. One was near the mouth of the Umpqua river, a second at Ten-Mile creek and the third opposite the wreck. The bodies are not yet identified. This makes nine bodies that have been found. It was thought by some that the headless body found several days ago was that of Harold Millis, but the father, C. J. Millis, could not identify it, and the remains were buried as an unknown. A watch is kept for more bodies.

Paulhan Makes Flight.

Denver, Feb. 2.—Thirty thousand people swarmed into Overland park today to see Louis Paulhan in an exhibition flight in his Farman biplane. After three preliminary attempts, Paulhan twice encircled the mile track. That the exhibition was not more successful was due to the crowd itself. They broke down fences, swarmed over the field, and the police had difficulty in clearing sufficient space to allow the machine to start.

Gale Wrecks Schooner.

Norfolk, Va., Feb. 2.—With a north-west wind blowing at 52 miles an hour, the three-masted schooner *Frances*, Captain Coombs, from New York to Jacksonville, Fla., was washed ashore on the Hatteras coast this morning and was pounded to pieces. Fourteen men are supposed to have been lost before the life-savers could reach the vessel. None of the bodies have been washed ashore.

Gait 41 Miles a Second.

Cambridge, Mass., Feb. 2.—Forty-one miles a second is the speed at which "Comet A, 1910" is traveling from the earth, according to statement announced at Harvard college observatory today, from Liek observatory. The telegram says that Albrecht photographed the spectrum of the comet and found the sodium lines displaced, indicating the motion of the luminary.

Jap Can't be U. S. Citizen.

Richmond, Va., Feb. 2.—Under an opinion handed down in the United States Circuit Court of Appeals today in the case of *Nanyo Respo vs. The United States*, a Japanese in law is neither a white man nor a person of African descent, and therefore is not entitled to naturalization in this country.

MINE EXPLOSION KILLS SCORES

Colorado Coal Mine Scene of Death and Destruction.

Seventy-Nine Bodies Found in Mass at Bottom of Shaft—Nearly as Many More Believed to be in Mine and Little Hope is Entertained That Any Are Alive.

Primero, Colo., Feb. 1.—Seventy-nine bodies of the victims of yesterday afternoon's explosion in the Primero mine were found piled in a mass at the foot of the air shaft shortly after midnight.

When the explosion occurred the men evidently made a rush to escape through the air shaft, and were suffocated as they battled with one another for freedom.

It has been shown by the time-keeper's records that there were 149 men in the mine at the time of the explosion. Few are thought to be alive. The main shaft of the mine is completely wrecked.

The mine authorities telegraphed an order to Denver early this morning for 80 coffins. One man only has been found alive. He is badly injured and has not been identified.

The explosion occurred in the mine of the Colorado Fuel & Iron company at 4:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon. Three men at the mouth of the mine were killed by the force of the concussion.

Both fans with which the mine was equipped were shattered, but were replaced and J. H. Thompson, superintendent, and a rescue party entered by the main air shaft, but were unable to reach the main shaft, which was completely blocked. The party returned to the surface after securing five bodies, which were badly burned.

A party equipped with oxygen helmets replaced them and continued the search for more bodies. Miners were rescued to Primero from Trinidad, Saundo, Starkville, Sopris and Cokeville, and labored frantically to clear the main shaft, relieving each other every few minutes.

Most of the victims are Slavs and Hungarians, although Electrician Will Helm is among the missing.

The camp was a scene of indescribable horror last night. While every able-bodied man was taking his turn with pick and shovel to clear the shaft, the women and children, kept back by ropes, gathered about the shaft, weeping and calling loudly upon their loved ones who had not been found.

Members of the rescue party say that the effect of the explosion underground is indescribable. The bodies recovered were horribly burned and unrecognizable. One body was impaled on broken timbers.

PARIS RECOVERS.

Water Recedes and Work of Repairing is Begun.

Paris, Feb. 1.—Improvement in the general situation continues and the spirits of the Parisians are rising as the waters fall. Street hawkers are selling postcard pictures of the flood and the boulevards are once more gay with thousands.

With the crisis past, the mercurial French temperament faces the subsidiary troubles with a light heart, but the papers already are warning the people that measures must be taken to avoid a repetition of the disaster.

The prefect of the department of the Seine has issued instructions to the owners of flooded houses to clean and disinfect their premises to the satisfaction of the municipal architects within 24 hours after the subsidence of the waters.

The government has ordered the tax collectors to show the greatest leniency to delinquents, and the Mont de Pieta is extending pawn tickets for three months.

Public and private benevolence continues to respond to the call of the sufferers. Theaters and societies are organizing benefits, while the various race courses are arranging a big meeting for the spring, the receipts of which will go to the poor. A resolution has been introduced in the chamber of deputies asking the government to award special crosses of the Legion of Honor to those who have been conspicuous in the rescue work.

Although the papers are printing columns of pitiful stories, a hundredth part of the horror never will be known. Many corpses have been swept down river, and occasionally a corpse is found in a boat, broken away from some funeral procession.

Suffrage Union Bars Meat.

New York, Feb. 1.—The Gotham beef party, named in memory of the Boston Tea Party, was formed today by the National women's progressive suffrage union, which has been active in the campaign against higher cost of living. Mrs. Sophia Loebinger and others addressed an open-air crowd in Madison square. Mrs. Loebinger said she and her associates proposed to open public cooking schools in the streets, to teach cooking without meat.

Trust Attorney Testifies.

Chicago, Feb. 1.—The federal grand jury today resumed its investigation into the methods of the so-called "beef trust." Ralph Crews, general counsel for the National Packing company, testified. Documents and books belonging to the National Packing company were examined.