

SEVENTEEN ARE DEAD

Explosion in Pennsylvania Coal Mine Disastrous.

AT LEAST 16 MORE ARE INJURED

Bare Lamp Touches Off Pocket of Gas—Black Damp Prevents Rescue Work.

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 Pittsburgh.

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 Causes 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.

River Floods Big Tunnel.

Grand Junction, Colo., June 24.—The Denver & Rio Grande tunnel at Tunnel station, 20 miles east of here, was flooded by the Grand river at 3 o'clock this morning and traffic in both directions is effectively blocked. The tunnel is more than a quarter of a mile long, and is flooded to a depth of a foot. The water is still rising. The track at other points also is in danger. Two trains are isolated, with the flooded tunnel behind and a burned-out bridge ahead. All eastbound trains are being held here.

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.

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.

Search for Treasure Ship.

San Francisco, June 23.—Officers of the United States mine planter Armistead are planning to make a final effort to locate the sunken hull of the steamer Rio de Janeiro, which was wrecked in the Golden Gate February 11, 1901. The Rio was entering the harbor from an Oriental trip and carried to the bottom with her scores of passengers and \$200,000 worth of treasure. During the last eight years many attempts have been made to locate the wreck. It is thought it has been carried far to sea by the tides and currents.

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.

WASHINGTON LEADS

Banner State in Lumber Industry With Oregon Eighth.

LOUISIANA HOLDS SECOND PLACE

United States Produced 17 Per Cent Less in 1908 as Result of Financial Panic.

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 2,915,923,000 feet—a decrease of 22.8 per cent from the cut in 1907. Louisiana ranks second, with 2,722,421,060 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, peaches, 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.

Taft and Diaz May Meet.

Mexico City, June 22.—The Medical Herald says: Replying to a communication from the White House at Washington, through the Mexican ambassador today, President Diaz has expressed his desire to meet President Taft for a personal interview, which will take place at one of the points on the boundary line between Mexico and the United States some time during the latter part of the year. The announcement of the preliminary negotiations looking toward this interview were made yesterday.

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.

GIGANTIC UNDERTAKING.

Irrigation Congress Will Ask for Improvement of National Resources.

Arthur Hooker, secretary of the National Irrigation congress, will present a resolution for approval by that organization at its seventeenth session in Spokane August 9 to 14, memorializing congress to issue 3 per cent gold bonds, running 100 years, to the amount of \$5,000,000,000, or as much thereof as may be necessary for the following specific purposes:

One billion dollars for drainage of overflowed and swamp lands, thus reclaiming an area equal to 100,000 square miles.

One billion dollars for the reclamation by irrigation of 40,000,000 acres of arid and semi-arid lands now partly or wholly waste.

One billion dollars to construct and improve deep waterways, to develop thousands of miles of territory now without adequate transportation facilities.

One billion dollars for good roads and national highways, for the lack of which the loss to the farm area of the United States is approximately \$500,000,000 annually.

One billion dollars for forest protection, reforestation and conservation of the forest resources, thus assuring timber and lumber supplies for centuries to come.

"Five billions of dollars is an enormous sum, but it is no more than is actually required to carry out the gigantic scheme in developing millions of acres of lands in various parts of the United States now absolutely worthless," said Mr. Hooker in explaining the plan. "Congress will not be asked to appropriate a penny. The returns from the improvements would pay off the bonds. The government would simply act as a banker, as it does now for the various irrigation projects. The bond issue would provide ample funds as required to carry out the work in the several divisions, at the same time giving the best possible collateral to those investing in these securities."

"Government figures bear out the statement that there is enough good land overflowed in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Kansas, Nebraska, Louisiana, Kentucky, Tennessee and Mississippi to make an area as large as the state of Missouri, or more than 44,000,000 acres, while in the Eastern, Central and Western states there is more than as much more, or about 100,000,000 acres in all. At a conservative estimate of \$25 an acre, the sale of this reclaimed land would justify the expenditure of \$2,500,000,000, or about 150 per cent more than is required to drain it. This land would support from 2,000,000 to 3,000,000 population."

"Approximately 40,000,000 acres of lands in Western and Southwestern states are adapted to irrigation, which, if reclaimed at an average cost of \$25 an acre, would be worth not less than \$200 an acre, or a total of \$8,000,000,000, and provide homes for more than 8,000,000 persons. The economic value of irrigation cannot be measured in dollars and cents, but crops of from \$500 to \$1,000 an acre are not rare in the irrigated districts. There are already 14,000,000 acres under irrigation and the Reclamation service estimates it will have reclaimed 2,000,000 acres, at a cost not exceeding \$70,000,000, before the close of 1911."

"The construction and improvement of the deep waterways required to provide better and cheaper transportation facilities is, I believe, a 100 per cent investment, from the fact that two-thirds of the bulky freight could be shipped by water routes, at a cost to the shipper of not more than one-sixth of the present rail rates. The importance of this becomes apparent when it is remembered that the food question is becoming a world problem."

"The state of New York is expending \$101,000,000 to enlarge the Erie canal, and \$100,000,000 is the amount required to improve the Missouri river from a point about 40 miles west of Yellowstone park to where it meets the Mississippi river, 2,547 miles. Then there is the projected waterway from Lake Michigan to the Gulf of Mexico and scores of others necessary to cheap and better transportation facilities. Millions of dollars will be saved annually to the people of the United States by the completion of these works."

"The maintenance of the greatest waterway in the world, composed of the Great Lakes, on which the government of the United States has expended more than \$90,000,000 for harbors and connecting channels, presents an argument in favor of the scheme to develop thousands of miles of territory in the Missouri and other valleys. The other projects outlined in the foregoing are of equal if not greater importance, and with proper backing they can be carried out successfully."

"No one questions the statement that good roads have a high money value to the farmers of the nation, and it may be said that this alone is sufficient to justify the cost of their construction as rapidly as practicable under an efficient, economical and equitable system of highway improvement. The big points in favor of this expenditure is the economy of time and force in transportation between farm and market, enabling the growers to take advantage of fluctuations in buying and selling, as well as enhancing the value of real estate."

"It is estimated that the average annual loss from poor roads is 76 cents an acre, while the estimated average increase resulting from improving all the public roads is \$9. The losses in five years would aggregate \$2,432 for every section of land, or more than enough to improve two miles of public highway. The necessity of good roads is obvious, as it would enhance the value of each section of land about \$5,760, or more than double the estimated cost of two miles of improved

highway, which constitutes the quota for 640 acres of land.

"The value of our forests was never better appreciated than today. Within

the arid and semi-arid portions of the Western states nearly 124,000,000 acres are covered with woodland, of value for fuel, fence posts and other purposes essential to the success of the farmers. There are also 97,000,000 acres covered with heavy forests having commercial value for timber and logs for sawmills, also hundreds of thousands of acres of timber lands in other parts of the United States. Reforestation and conservation of the vast resources are necessary to provide future generations with timber and lumber supplies. The government is expending large amounts of money every year to protect its forests from fires, yet expert lumbermen say that more standing timber is destroyed by flames annually than is converted into merchantable lumber by the sawmills."

Mr. Hooker said it is likely that his resolution will be presented to the various interests of the irrigation congress for discussion and will afterward be incorporated in a memorial to the United States congress. It is also proposed to have a large delegation, composed of representatives of every state and territory in the Union, push the measure for adoption. The work of enlisting the support of the people interested in the various projects will be taken up immediately after the close of the irrigation congress with the view to concerted action.

During the Spat.

Her Husband—Well, it takes two to make a quarrel, so I'll shut up.

His Wife—That's just like a contemptible man! You'll sit there and think mean things!

Even Exchange.

Angry Patron—That's the third time you've given me the wrong number. You must have what they call the telephone ear.

Girl in Central Office—I beg your pardon, sir, but that isn't the trouble. You have what we call the cornmeal mush voice.—Chicago Tribune.

Disappointing.

The Bachelor—Here's a magazine poet who likens "hope" to "a fair woman."

The Benedict—Huh! No wonder; it is so disappointing.

Catching On.

"I'm glad to hear that your boy is getting a foothold as a doctor in that new town out West."

"Foothold? He's got a toehold. He's the only doctor there."

Singular Effect.

"Hasn't that umpire got a peach of a voice?"

"Yes; a ball once hit him on his Adam's apple and it has never been the same since."

Fawceny!

"If I were running things," said the boarding house philosopher, "I'd put a prohibitory tariff on slang. The imported English varieties are crowding out our home product."

A Queerious Tale.

He came from a place called Chet—The place where long pigtails grew—And was always made furious

When told it's quite curious How much like a tail is a queue.—Sunset Magazine.

High Art.

"Are you blind, prisoner?" inquired the magistrate.

"Yes, your worship."

"You are charged with vagrancy. How did you lose your sight?"

"By a fit of appleplex, sir."

"But there is a picture on your breast representing an explosion in a mine, through which, it is stated, you became blind. How is this?"

"Please, your worship, I couldn't afford to pay a hurler as could paint appleplex."—London Answers.

His Preference.

Farmer (showing him his live stock)—These are my Jerseys. Ever see any finer cows?

City Visitor—They are certainly fine specimens. Still, I have always thought that if I were buying a cow for my own use I should prefer the—er—Early York breed.

The Embarrassing Truth.

"The vindication of Dr. Harvey W. Wiley is a great triumph," said a Washington diplomat, "for pure food. Dr. Wiley tells the truth, and the truth is painful to certain types of food producers."

The diplomat laughed.

"Dr. Wiley was talking the other day about the painfulness of the truth," he resumed. "He said it reminded him of a morning call that he once made on a young lady in his youth. In answer to his ring a tiny tot of a girl opened the door, and Dr. Wiley said to her, as he walked into the hall:

"Where is your auntie, Mabel?"

"Upstairs in her nightgown," chirped the tot, "a-lookin' over the balustrade."

A Grave Doubt.

Caller—So your cook has passed away to a better place.

Hostess—Yes but I don't know if she'll stay; poor Bridget was very hard to suit.—Boston Traveler.

Sounds Plausible.

"What is your principal object, anyhow," asked the visiting foreigner, "in building that Panama canal?"

"Well," answered the native, "we have an idea it will limit the size of future battleships."—Chicago Tribune.

Headache

"My father has been a sufferer from sick headache for the last twenty-five years and never found any relief until he began taking your Cascarets. Since he has begun taking Cascarets he has never had the headache. They have entirely cured him. Cascarets do what you recommend them to do. I will give you the privilege of using his name."—E. M. Dickson, 1120 Resiner St., W. Indianapolis, Ind.

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Letting Him Down Easy.

A young man of very limited means, after the marriage ceremony, presented to the minister twenty-seven large copper cents, all spread out on the palm of his right hand. "This is all I've got, parson," he said. Seeing a disappointed look in the minister's face he added: "If we have any children, we will send them to your Sunday school."—Success Magazine.

Apprehensive.

Fellow Statesman—Senator, that speech of yours in favor of the income tax was one of the strongest arguments I ever heard.

Eloquent Senator (with some uneasiness)—You don't think it changed any votes, do you?—Chicago Tribune.

Mothers will find Mrs. Winstow's Soothing Syrup the best remedy to use for their children during the teething period.

Cooking Up a Reason.

Nan—I like a play with a stirring plot.

Fan—That's the kind that thickens, isn't it?

A household once supplied with Ham-lins Wizard Oil is seldom allowed to be without it. In case of sudden mishap or accident Wizard Oil takes the place of the family doctor. Are you supplied?

Satisfactory Assurance.

Mrs. Upsome—Dr. Mary Walker makes fun of the spring styles of hats.

Mrs. Goodsole—I'm so glad to learn that the dear old lady is still alive.

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