

FATAL THEATER FIRE

Hundred Die in Horrible Disaster at Boyertown, Pa.

COAL OIL SPILLED ON AUDIENCE

Flames Leap Through Hall and People All Rung Out—Many Are Trampled to Pulp.

Boyertown, Pa., Jan. 14.—Nearly 100 persons of this borough were killed in a theater fire and panic last night and nearly three score injured, many of them fatally. A majority of the killed were members of the leading families of the town.

While the "Scottish Reformation" was being reproduced in Rhodes opera house by Mrs. Monroe, of Washington, a tank used in a moving picture scene exploded. Immediately there was a wild rush for the exits of the building. Men of mature years endeavored to still the panic, but their voices could not be heard above the shrieks and screams of the terrified women and children who composed the greater part of the audience.

It seemed as though nearly the entire audience made a mad rush for the exits the moment the explosion occurred.

In their attempts to quiet the great crowd, those persons who were on the stage accidentally upset the coal oil lamps used at the footlights. The burning oil scattered in all directions, and the lamps which were used to light the opera house exploded, throwing the blazing oil over the terror stricken people, who were fighting frantically to gain the exits. In the mad rush a section of the floor gave way, precipitating scores of persons to the basement.

It was scarcely five minutes from the time of the explosion of the tanks until the entire heart of the structure seemed a roaring furnace. There was a mad scramble to the stairway, and scores of women and children were knocked down and trampled upon, many of them doubtless being crushed to death. At least 50 persons, realizing that exit by the stairway meant almost certain death, risked their lives by jumping from the windows. Limbs were broken and skulls were crushed by this daring method of escape.

In the meantime a relief corps was at work at the entrance to the theater, endeavoring to release those who were edged in the doorway and unable to extricate themselves. Many persons who otherwise might have made good their escape from the furnace were held in check by the awful jam at the doors. As the flames cut their way toward the front of the building, women could be seen to clasp their hands and fall back into the flames.

Once the doorways were clear, the rescuers dragged many women and children from the stairways leading to the balcony. Some of them were so badly injured that they died before reaching the temporary hospital. Skulls were crushed and the faces of some of the victims were so horribly mutilated that they were barely recognizable. In one instance, the skull of a child, apparently about 10 years of age, was crushed almost into a jelly.

To add to the terrible disaster, the fire apparatus became disabled and the structure was left entirely to the mercy of the flames. It is almost certain not a vestige of the bodies of the unfortunate who were overcome by the smoke and perished will ever be found.

Had the women and children heeded the warning of the cooler heads in the audience, the horrible loss of life might have been avoided, but there was the usual panic and stampede which invariably follows such a catastrophe. The flames spread rapidly and communicated to the other parts of the building. Men, women and children rushed for the many exits of the building, and the weaker sex and the children were trampled and maimed in the mad rush to gain the streets.

Cut Pullman Charges.

Washington, Jan. 14.—George S. Loftus, of St. Paul, accompanied by Senator LaFollette, filed with the Interstate Commerce commission today a petition asking for a reduction of 25 per cent in the lower berth rates of the Pullman company, and the fixing of rates for upper berths at one-half the lower berth rate. The reduction is asked on all interstate business throughout the United States. Mr. Loftus represents the Minnesota Shippers' association, which started the private car investigation two years ago.

Massacred by Yaquis.

Visalia, Cal., Jan. 14.—Word of the tragic death of Mark Perkins, a prominent mine owner of Mexico, and former resident of this city, was received today by the young man's parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Perkins, of Visalia. On January 2 last, Perkins and nine Mexicans were ambushed by Yaquis near the city of Sonora, Mexico, and massacred, but one Mexican escaping. Other particulars of the killing have not yet been received.

Mining Camp Burns.

Mexico City, Jan. 14.—According to a telegram just received in this city, the great gold mining camp of El Oro, one of the largest in the republic, is being destroyed by fire. When the dispatch was filed the principal hotels and the more important business buildings of the camp had been reduced to ashes.

HARLAN SEES WAR.

White and Yellow Races Must Fight for Supremacy.

Washington, Jan. 13.—Justice John M. Harlan, of the Supreme court of the United States, peered into the distant future at the annual dinner of the Navy league of the United States and told of a day when the white and yellow races will meet in a conflict that will shake the earth. The distinguished jurist was speaking in the interest of a mighty American navy. He said:

"If I had the opportunity I would vote for an appropriation of \$50,000,000 a year for a period of ten years for a larger navy. The great importance of a navy is shown in the constitution, which restricts the appropriations for the army, but sets no limit to those for the navy. There is no such thing as friendship between nations as between men. Nations make no sacrifices to preserve friendship and do not forbear to do certain things because it does not meet with the approval of another nation. Do you think England cares a cent for what we think of her navy, or Germany cares a cent for what we think of hers?"

"The trend of the immigration of the white people in the past has been from east to west. There has been none from the west. Just across the water there is a country with an immense population whose commerce we are seeking. We refer to the people of Asia as the yellow race. There are 400,000,000 Chinese, as strong physically and mentally as we are. There is over there another nation whose people are progressive and ambitious. We may some day see a skilled army in Japan of 5,000,000 to 10,000,000. They will say:

"You claim Europe as your country. This is ours. Get out."
"I don't think they have any such idea now, and we have no hostility toward them. But there will be a conflict between the yellow race and the white race that will shake the earth. When it comes I want to see this country with a navy on both oceans that will be strong enough."

GREAT ACTIVITY EVIDENT.

Government is Rushing Work on Our Coast Defenses.

Washington, Jan. 13.—New coast defenses are being installed and old ones re-enforced at Pacific coast points, Guam, Hawaii and Manila. This work of fortification is being carried forward swiftly and upon a gigantic scale. Coal depots are being replenished, huge searchlights installed, harbors mined, big guns placed and ammunition magazines filled to overflowing.

So quietly has this work been going on that few outside of the officials handling the work have realized the enormous undertaking under way. This work was started last May, and it is expected that a year will see the completion of the outlined program.

It is acknowledged that the fortifications at Manila, Guam, Puget sound and Honolulu are inefficient and it is at those points that the greatest work is being done. San Francisco and other coast points are declared to be perfectly equipped to repel attacks.

While not acknowledging any apprehension, the administration is rushing the work with real vigor. It was learned from an authoritative source today that one of the potent factors in determining the dispatch of the fleet to the Pacific was a realization of the weakness at certain points. The presence of the fleet in the Pacific remedies all defects and structural weakness in coast defense points. As long as it remains there it will make up for any short coming in coast fortifications.

By the time the fleet leaves the waters of the Pacific it is believed all the weak points will have been reinforced and the defenses will be of a modern and approved type.

Twelve million rounds now enroute to the Far East furnishes enough ammunition for a possible army of 50,000 men. The normal need of the army in the Philippines is about 2,000,000 rounds annually. Aside from this there is an exceptionally heavy draft of shells and cartridges.

Tightens Grip on Peninsula.

Tokio, Jan. 13.—An imperial ordinance has been gazetted which provides for the reorganization of the government of Kwang Tung peninsula in Manchuria. Directors general of foreign police affairs have also been created. Japanese consults at Mukden, Kin Chow, Chang Chun and Antung have been appointed commissioners of police for South Manchuria. The purpose of the ordinance, it is believed, means the organization of an active reform administration for the entire district.

Surgeons Forget Tools.

Red Lodge, Mont., Jan. 13.—A local surgeon who has performed an operation on Charles Joakinen, a young Finnish minister, for the removal of the cause of pain in his chest, found in the cavity left by a previous operation two pieces of rubber tubing four and five inches long respectively. To one was attached a safety pin, badly rusted. The rubber tubing was nearly a half inch in diameter. Joakinen is recovering.

Vesuvius Still Spits Ashes.

Naples, Jan. 13.—Mount Vesuvius continues to throw out ashes and incandescent matter from its chief crater, the cone of which, formed by the last eruption, collapsed recently, the earth tremblings being felt long distances.

DOINGS OF THE SIXTIETH CONGRESS

Wednesday, January 15.

Washington, Jan. 15.—Bacon today introduced a currency bill and explained its chief features to the senate. Bacon said that his bill was an amendment to the Aldrich bill and embodied many of its provisions, as it did of the provisions of the bill introduced by Knox. He said it omitted railroad bonds from the classes of securities that could be used as a basis of circulation.

The senate did not receive a reply today from the secretary of the treasury to its resolution calling for information concerning the financial situation, as had been promised, and in its absence Aldrich assented to the passage of Culberson's resolution on the same subject. Without further comment, the resolution was adopted.

The resolution providing for the remission of more than half the Chinese Boxer indemnity was passed.

Washington, Jan. 15.—So persistent have been the efforts made in the house of representatives to amend the bill codifying the penal laws of the United States that the committee on the revision of the laws today consented to let down the bars, and as a result the measure was changed in some important particulars. The pacific attitude of the committee in this regard served to modify the opposition to the measure, and in consequence the proceedings today were devoid of the heated arguments which have characterized the previous debates. When the house adjourned there were pending a number of other important amendments, which seemed to meet with no particular opposition by the committee, but which were passed over until tomorrow.

The portions of the bill which attracted the most attention were those covering the giving and accepting of bribes by senators and representatives, and the sale of endorsements or support for appointive public offices. It is to the amendments touching these questions that the house will devote itself tomorrow upon resuming consideration of the bill.

Tuesday, January 14.

Washington, Jan. 14.—The recent bond issue by the Treasury department was again the subject of discussion in the senate today, being brought forward by a resolution offered by Culberson, calling upon the secretary for additional information concerning the reasons that induced him to award bonds to National banks instead of individuals who, he declared, offered a higher price than was bid by the banks. The resolution went over under the rules.

Tillman offered a resolution embodying a new series of inquiries concerning the financial situation.

The senate refused to confirm four Ohio postoffice appointments at the instance of Foraker and Dick. The bill granting leaves of absence to homestead entrymen during December, January, February and March was passed.

Washington, Jan. 4.—The amount of the fine and the length of the term of imprisonment to be meted out to officers and directors of corporations for violating the law with respect to money contributions for political purposes furnished material for a lengthy debate in the house today, in connection with the consideration of the penal code bill. All amendments to increase the penalty or enlarge the scope of the law, however, were voted down. These amendments, without exception, emanated from the Democratic side, but the one that brought forth the most discussion was by Cockran, New York, who wanted the fine fixed at \$10,000 instead of not more than \$1,000, and the imprisonment at 10 years instead of not more than one year.

When adjournment was taken at 5 o'clock 86 sections of the 342 had been disposed of.

Monday, January 13.

Washington, Jan. 13.—The recent issue of bonds by the secretary of the treasury for the purpose of relieving the financial stringency was the subject of an animated debate in the senate today. The discussion was precipitated by an inquiry by Culberson and was participated in by Aldrich, Tillman and Bailey. It resulted in an agreement to postpone further controversy until a statement can be received from Secretary Cortelyou, which Aldrich promised to present on Thursday. While the subject was under discussion, Tillman's resolution directing the finance committee to inquire into the operations of the Treasury department was referred, with his consent, to that committee.

The senate passed Tillman's resolution calling on the Interstate Commerce commission for information concerning purchases by railroad companies of stocks of competing roads.

The unfinished business in the form of the bill to codify the criminal laws of the United States was placed before the senate and the reading of the bill was begun.

Washington, Jan. 13.—Vigorous defense of state's rights in dealing with

Journey Brings Success.

Washington, Jan. 15.—The work of Ezra Meeker, the pioneer who came all the way from Payallup, Wash., in a prairie schooner of the pattern in which he had crossed the plains 54 years before, seems about to be rewarded with success. Representative Humphrey has introduced in the house a bill providing for the appointment of a commissioner to take charge of the work of marking this trail, and also for an appropriation of \$50,000 for the work.

violations of civil rights or with special state elections, where troops have been called into service, served to enliven the debate in the house of representatives today in connection with the consideration of the bill to codify the penal laws of the United States. A number of Democrats, mostly from the Southern states, strenuously sought, by amendment, to reserve to the states themselves discretion as to the qualifications of voters or of persons to serve on juries, and to limit the powers of Federal judges in certain cases, but every attempt failed. Republicans presented a solid front, and the votes were all on party lines.

Saturday, January 11

Washington, Jan. 11.—A vigorous fight was waged in the house of representatives today over the bill to codify and revise the penal laws of the United States with particular reference to section 19, affecting conspiracies against the civil rights of citizens. Smith, of Missouri, and Hughes, of New Jersey, offered amendments having for their object the exemption of labor unions from the operation of the section whenever such unions declare strikes or boycotts. A motion to strike out the whole section was made by Bartlett, of Georgia. The brunt of the debate was borne by Sherley, of Kentucky, a member of the committee on revision, but he was supported by a number of Republicans.

The amendments were all lost, as was one by De Armond to strike out section 20, because it conferred on Federal courts in punishing felonies and misdemeanors committed under section 19 the authority given to the courts of the state in which the acts are committed.

Friday, January 10.

Washington, Jan. 10.—The house of representatives today resumed its activity, and for over five hours transacted business of a public nature. Material progress was made with the bill to codify, revise and amend the criminal laws of the United States, which was taken up after some routine bills had been disposed of.

The feature of the session was a brief address by Burleson, of Texas, who credited Senator Foraker and other Republicans with having charged the president with the responsibility for the recent financial panic.

The house of representatives took on its old-time form when Jones, of Washington, called up the bill authorizing the Benton Water company to construct a dam across Snake river at Five-mile rapids, Wash. The bill elicited a sharp debate and members crowded into the center aisle anxious to be heard. The bill was finally passed.

Washington, Jan. 10.—The senate committee on territories today passed favorably upon the nomination of George Curry to be governor of New Mexico; Nathan Jaffa to be secretary of New Mexico, and John H. Page to be secretary of Arizona.

The committee on Pacific islands and Porto Rico voted to recommend the confirmation of Regis H. Post, of New York, to be governor of Porto Rico; William F. Willoughby, of the District of Columbia, to be secretary of Porto Rico, and Edward Dexter, of Illinois, to be commissioner of education of Porto Rico.

Thursday, January 9.

Washington, Jan. 9.—The introduction by Senator Hale, chairman of the committee on naval affairs, today of his naval personnel bill proved the occasion for a general discussion of naval affairs and recent occurrences in connection with that branch of the public service. The Maine senator entered upon a full explanation of the provisions of the measure, together with his reason for its adoption.

Senator Clay today introduced a bill authorizing the secretary of the treasury to issue \$300,000,000 of non-interest bearing United States notes in circulation, in such form as he may deem expedient.

Senator Gore, of Oklahoma, today introduced a joint resolution providing that no person shall be eligible to be elected president of the United States for more than two terms in succession.

Senator Piles today secured the passage through the senate of his bill appropriating \$30,000 for the erection of a lighthouse at the entrance of Bellingham Bay.

Washington, Jan. 9.—Decided differences of opinion as to the way of injecting elasticity into the national currency and of increasing the safety of bank deposits have arisen among the members of the committee on banking and currency, of which Fowler, of New Jersey is chairman. Some of the Republican members as well as Democrats, are not in entire sympathy with the plan of Fowler as embodied in the bill introduced by him yesterday contemplating the immediate and complete retirement of all national bank bond-secured currency and its replacement by a guaranteed credit currency based upon general assets of the banks.

Will Have Hard Fight.

Washington, Jan. 16.—The Washington congressional delegation had a conference this evening with Chairman Tammey, of the house appropriations committee regarding the bill for government buildings and exhibits at the Seattle exposition. Mr. Tammey called attention to the fact that the bill was sure to meet with opposition, especially in the house, and therefore it was advisable to eliminate all unnecessary items and so reduce the cost.

DENATURED ALCOHOL.

Idaho Experiment Station Tells About Manufacture and Use.

Conditions Affecting the Production of Industrial Alcohol in the Northwest, is the title of a bulletin recently issued by the department of chemistry of the Idaho state experiment station.

The purpose of the bulletin is, as the author states, to bring to the attention of farmers and others interested in the subject, the general principles underlying the processes used in the manufacture and denaturing of alcohol. The opinion is expressed that people in this part of the country will receive but little benefit from the passage of the "Denatured Alcohol Act" unless they see to it that this alcohol is made at home from home grown products. Several crops are mentioned as being the ones to which people in the Northwest will have to look as the most promising in alcohol manufacture, the most prominent being potatoes and sugar beets. It is not probable that individual farm distilleries will ever be put into operation. The idea is advanced of a community still, or a still owned and operated by a stock company, in which the chief owners of the stock shall be the producers of the raw material. Figures are given illustrating the relative efficiency of alcohol when compared to kerosene as a source of light.

It will require some time to get people acquainted with the uses to which denatured alcohol may be put, but it is confidently believed that there is a great future for this product right here in the Northwest.

"DRYING OFF" THE MILKER.

Useful Hints On Handling of Cows Before Calving.

In answer to a question how to "dry off" the milking cow, Prof. J. H. Franson, of Idaho experiment station, gave the following suggestions:

The trouble with many dairymen is that in drying up cows they are afraid to stop milking as long as the cow shows any tendency of giving milk. In many they do not realize that to continue milking through the entire year is an exceedingly bad policy. In ordinary cases it is desirable that the cows should be dry from a month to six weeks. The object being to increase the supply of nourishment for the growing fetus as well as enabling the cow to improve her physical condition before the time of calving. When it is thought best to hasten "laying off," start by not milking the cow clean. This will generally decrease the amount to a point where it is safe to skip every other milking. In about a week the milk will generally be reduced to such proportions as to justify milking only every other day. Generally soon after this it will be safe to discontinue milking altogether.

The "drying off" is most easily accomplished when cows are fed on dry feeds as much as possible.

There are a few persistent milkers which can be done more harm by a forced "drying off" than to let them milk up to calving, but such cows are decidedly few in numbers.

Publications for Farmers.

The following publications of interest to farmers and others have been issued by the Agricultural department of the Federal government and will be furnished free, so long as they are available, except where otherwise noted, upon application to the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.:

Farmer's Bulletin No. 158.—How to Build Small Irrigation Ditches. By C. T. Johnston and J. D. Stannard, assistants in irrigation investigations, office of experiment stations. Pp. 28, figs. 9. This is a reprint of an article in the Yearbook of the department of agriculture for 1900, entitled "Practical Irrigation," giving methods for laying out and building small irrigating ditches, using only such implements as are found on most farms or can easily be made by the farmer.

Farmers' Bulletin No. 187.—Drainage of Farm Lands. By C. G. Elliott, drainage expert, irrigation investigations, office of experiment stations. Pp. 40, figs. 19. Explains the effects and advantages of drainage and describes implements and methods suited to a variety of conditions in humid and irrigated regions.

Farmers' Bulletin No. 263.—Practical Information for Beginners in Irrigation. By S. Fortier. Pp. 40, figs. 25. This gives suggestions as to the selection of an irrigated farm, the acquisition of a water right, the preparation of land for irrigation, the construction of farm ditches, and the application of water to crops.

Farmers' Bulletin No. 270.—Modern Conveniences for the Farm Home. By Elmira T. Wilson. Pp. 48, figs. 27. This discusses heating, water supply, and sewage disposal for farm homes, and the arrangement of houses and grounds.

Farmers' Bulletin No. 277.—The Use of Alcohol and Gasoline in Farm Engines. By C. E. Lucke and S. M. Woodward. Pp. 40, figs. 12. This gives the general results of experiments in the use of alcohol in the ordinary internal combustion engines on the American market, with some discussion of foreign experiments.

Two-Egg Sponge Cake.

Beat two eggs separately and well. Add to yolks one-half cup sugar; beat; then three-eighths cup boiling water and another half-cup of sugar and one-fourth teaspoonful salt; beat again. Add juice and grated rind of one-fourth lemon; beat again. Now add alternately the whites of eggs and one level cup flour, sifted with one and one-half teaspoonful baking powder. Bake twenty-five minutes in a greased, paper-lined, shallow pan.

WARNING TO JAPAN

Root Says She Must Stop Flood of Coolie Immigrants.

EXCLUSION LAW MAY BE PASSED

Japanese Government Attempts to Adroitly Dodge Issue—Root Staves Off the Crisis.

Washington, Jan. 11.—Negotiations between the United States and Japan have reached a serious stage. While war as an eventuality is not seriously apprehended, largely because of Japan's unpreparedness, it is known that the historic friendly relations are strained almost to the point of breaking.

The official denial given at the State department of cabled reports of demands having been made upon Japan are literally true in a diplomatic sense, but the denial, in a measure, is an evasion. The "oral representations" and the exchange of "memoranda," reduced to plain English, mean just this:

Ambassador O'Brien, acting under instructions, has, since reaching his post last October, been attempting to secure from the Japanese government satisfactory assurances that under the pledge given at the time of the passage of the immigration law last February the Japanese government would assist in restricting the emigration to this country of objectionable Japanese labor. Twice has he communicated to Secretary Root replies obtained from Count Hayashi, in which the Japanese government attempts adroitly to dodge the issue.

Mr. Root has submitted to the Japanese government, through Mr. O'Brien, statistics prepared by the department of commerce and labor, showing that the immigration of the undesirable class of Japanese since the Japanese government gave its promise has been monthly at least twice as large as before the promise was given, and during some months four times as large.

The presentation of cold statistics showing laxity, coupled with the intimation that congress may adopt more stringent measures, possibly an exclusion law, brought from the Japanese government the second reply, which reached Mr. Root a few days ago in the form of a cablegram which cost several thousand dollars.

Mr. Root is now preparing an answer, with the assistance of several experts in Oriental affairs. The Japanese government will be informed that assurances cannot be given that an exclusion act will not be passed, but that the administration will exercise its influence to prevent such legislation, if possible, pending negotiations.

The issue in official circles in Japan has caused acute agitation, and because of the strained condition of affairs, Mr. Root will not unnecessarily precipitate matters, with the battleship fleet so far from its base in the Pacific.

Estimates Too Low.

Washington, Jan. 11.—Because of changed conditions from those existing in 1905, when the minority of the board of consulting engineers of the Panama canal submitted its report, it is now admitted in responsible quarters that the estimate made by that report for building the canal was far too low and that the cost may approximate \$200,000,000. This includes various incidental items, such as administration, sanitation and improvements aggregating several millions of dollars in Panama and Colon, which, however, will be refunded by the Panama government, and the expenses of the zone government and various expenses incidental to the relocation and acquisition of the Panama railroad.

The estimate of the board in 1905 was that the cost would be \$139,765,200, but this estimate did not include expenses on account of interest during construction, sanitation and zone government.

May Admit Trust Companies.

New York, Jan. 11.—The clearing house committee decided today to call a meeting of the entire association next Monday to determine whether to admit trust companies to membership in the association of banks now composing the Clearing house. The matter has been under discussion by the committee since last November. The more conservative bank presidents favor the maintenance of a 25 per cent reserve by such trust companies as may be admitted to the association, while others advocate an "associate membership."

Convicted of Illegal Fencing.

Omaha, Jan. 11.—Perry A. Yeast, a prominent cattleman who has been on trial for conspiracy to defraud the government in land entries, was today found guilty and recommended to the clemency of the court by the jury. Yeast had many thousand acres of the North Platte forest reserve under illegal fence. However, the count upon which he was found guilty was of conspiring with old soldiers and widows to obtain land fraudulently.

Withdrawing Troops From Muncie.

Muncie, Ind., Jan. 11.—Major General McKee issued orders this afternoon for the return to their homes of three companies of militia now in Muncie. Street cars are now running on normal schedule.