

TWENTY ARE KILLED

Premature Explosion of Dynamite Causes Death in New York.

CITY OF ALBANY FEELS SHOCK

Preparations to Fire 8,000 Pounds of Explosive Had Been Made When Accident Occurred.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WIRELESS LIGHTING.

Transmits [Power] Through Air and Floods Hall With Rays.

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

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

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

Plan Big Coal Merger.

Baltimore, May 13.—The Consolidated Coal company today announced that negotiations had been completed for merging the Piedmont Coal company, the Somerset Coal company, the Clarksburg Fuel company, the Pittsburg & Fairmont Fuel company and their subsidiaries, thus making the Consolidated the largest mining concern of its kind in the world. The companies have a capital stock of \$37,650,000 and own and control 200,000 acres of coal lands in Maryland, West Virginia and Pennsylvania.

More Frost in Fruit Belt.

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

Hawaiians Refuse Japs.

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

UNION PACIFIC EXEMPT.

Interstate Commerce Commission Allows Protest to Stand.

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

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

California Enters Protest.

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

WILL FIGHT STRIKE.

French Deputies Show Confidence in Government.

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

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

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

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

FEWER RAILROAD ACCIDENTS

Year 1908 Was 40 Per Cent Safer Than Was 1907.

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

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

Few Japs Are Coming Now.

Victoria, B. C., May 14.—T. Nakamura, the new consul general to Canada, who arrived today, in an interview said Japan will strictly adhere to the immigration arrangements made with Canada and the United States, the restrictions being now strictly enforced. There are few applications for passports and few Japanese are going to South America. Emigration from Japan now is mostly to Korea and Manchuria. Mr. Nakamura was formerly secretary at the Washington legation.

Mikado to Greet Americans.

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

OREGON STATE ITEMS OF INTEREST

HAS RECORD CLIP.

Over 3,000,000 Pounds of Wool Expected in Malheur County.

Ontario—The wool clip in Malheur county this year will be much larger than it was a year ago, or for several years, as the fleece is in much better condition, and there are also more sheep in the county than for several years. The clip last year totaled about 2,750,000 pounds and was considered very large, but this year it will be more than 3,000,000 pounds and it will be cleaner and much thicker per sheep than it was last year.

One and one half million pounds have already been sold here, for May and June delivery, and buying continues at a rapid rate, so rapid in fact that there will be very little public selling this year, as the sales days for Ontario I have been set so late. They are June 7 and 21. There has been very little bad weather this year, which is the particular reason for the fine condition of the fleeces. The sheep have come through the winter with less loss than for several years previous.

Prices this spring range from 20 to 21 cents. Last year they were about 12 to 16 1/2 cents. Very little of the wool in this vicinity is going to the Chicago warehouse. Most of it will be sent to Boston, as in former years. A number of wool growers throughout the vicinity joined the warehouse plan, but the majority continued in the old way, as the prices in this part of the country have always been good.

Much of the shearing this year will be done by machine. Some complaint of the machines have been heard, the complaint being that they shear too close for the best health of the sheep, but this does not seem to be credited by many of the growers.

The annual meeting of the Malheur and Harney Wool Growers' association will meet in Ontario on June 22. At that time all the wool growers of the two counties will be here.

STATE'S FINANCIAL CONDITION

Treasurer's Statement Shows Over Million Dollars in Strong Box.

Salem—The treasurer's statement just out shows that the amount of first mortgage loans outstanding is the greatest in the history of the state, having reached the sum total of \$4,390,822.82. As a result the common school fund interest is growing rapidly and there will thereby be a large amount to apportion among the counties August 1.

The common school fund interest is now \$232,007.94.

The state tax paid into the state treasury during April was large, almost \$500,000 being received. On account of this healthy condition of the state's finances, the total amount on hand is the largest that has ever been held at any time by the state for a great many years, the sum being \$1,173,533.98.

Farmers' First Annual Picnic.

Weston—The annual meeting of the Umatilla county Pioneers' association will be held in this city May 28 and 29, when it is expected that practically every old settler will be on hand to recall the "good old days" when Eastern Oregon was the home of coyotes and the land was covered with sagebrush. The first pioneer society to be organized in Eastern Oregon was founded here, and annually the meetings have been held for over 20 years. Over 25 of the early settlers of the county have passed away during the past 24 months.

Sheep Moving to Feeding Grounds.

Condon—Rae Bros, of Montana, shipped a big trainload of sheep from Condon last week, the train consisting of 23 cars, making in all about 5,300 head. These sheep were going to Forsythe, Mont., where Rae Bros. have large bands of sheep. Several large trains of sheep will be leaving different parts of Eastern Oregon for the above firm and they will have about 250,000 head of sheep feeding in Montana when these arrive.

Dr. Steiner Returns.

Salem—Dr. R. E. L. Steiner, superintendent of the asylum, has returned from an extended trip East. He was accompanied as far as Chicago by H. E. Bickers, superintendent of the feeble minded institute. Bickers returned several weeks ago. Both made the trip for the purpose of making a study of the care of the insane of other states. Dr. Steiner visited Washington and Senator Chamberlain while there.

Klamath Changes Date.

Klamath Falls—The celebration of the completion of the railroad to Klamath Falls has been set for June 2 instead of June 7, so as not to conflict with the Rose festival in Portland. This is now authoritative. The event will be a great one in this section of the inland empire, and will be made memorable by the gathering of the greatest crowd ever known in Klamath county.

HIGH SCHOOL FOR WESTON.

Citizens Propose to Make Good Use of Normal School Building.

Weston—The district school board has given notice of a special meeting May 31 to vote on the proposition of establishing a high school. This action is taken in view of the state normal board's refusal to permit the use of the state's property at Weston for a normal school supported with private funds.

The Eastern Oregon state normal school will therefore cease to be, with the commencement exercises May 23-25, after being conducted more than 20 years as a state institution. The state board will be petitioned for the use of the state's plant for public and high school purposes, the district agreeing to take care of the property for which no provision was made by the legislature.

In view of the fact that the community gave all the ground and one of the buildings to the state, it is thought that the request will be granted.

Ontario Lands Bring \$80,000.

Ontario—Eighty thousand dollars' worth of property changed hands in the vicinity of Ontario during the past week. The prices ranged from \$125 to \$200 an acre. Among the sales were 100 acres owned by A. M. Moody, which sold for \$20,000; 75 acres owned by Judge J. T. Clement, \$15,200; 160 acres owned by Dave Dunbar, \$20,000. This land was purchased by Portland parties, and the entire acreage will be planted to fruit trees. A. A. Brown also sold 2,000 trees for \$20,000.

Work on Fair Buildings Begun.

Eugene—The work of building the grandstand and pavilion for the Lane county fair, which will be held in September, is under way. The fair grounds will be a busy place during the summer, as little building has yet been done. The track, which is being used for training, is in good condition. The capacity of the grandstand will be 1,000. The pavilion will be large, well arranged and modern.

Benton Growers Meet.

Corvallis—A grand rally of fruit growers and farmers was held here last week under the auspices of the Corvallis Commercial club for the purpose of organizing a Benton County Fruitgrowers' association and discussing plans for a co-operative scheme similar to that in existence at Hood River.

Mist's Mills in Operation.

Mist—The Holmes & Lindgren shingle mill resumed operations the first of the week, after a shut-down of several months. This is the last of the three shingle mills here to start. All are now running.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Bluestem milling, \$1.30@1.35; club, \$1.20; Turkey red, \$1.20; valley, \$1.17; forty-fold, \$1.26; red Russian, \$1.17@1.20; Corn—Whole, \$35 per ton; cracked, \$36.

Barley—Feed, \$34@35 per ton. Oats—No. 1 white, \$40 per ton.

Hay—Timothy, Willamette valley, \$14@18 per ton; Eastern Oregon, \$18@20; clover, \$11@12; alfalfa, \$13@14; grain hay, \$13@14; cheat, \$14@14.50; vetch, \$14@14.50.

Fruits—Apples, 65c@72.50 per box; strawberries, Oregon, 12 1/2c per pound.

Potatoes—\$20 per hundred.

Vegetables—Turnips, \$1.25 per sack; carrots, \$1.25; parsnips, \$1.50; beets, \$1.75; horseradish, 10c per pound; asparagus, Oregon, 75c per dozen; lettuce, head, 20c@50c per dozen; onions, 12 1/2@15c per dozen; radishes, 15c@20c per dozen; rhubarb, 2 1/2@3 1/2c per pound.

Butter—City creamery, extras, 26c; fancy outside creamery, 22 1/2@24c; store, 18c. Butter fat prices average 1 1/2 cent per pound under regular butter prices.

Eggs—Oregon ranch, 24c@25c.

Poultry—Hens, 14 1/2@15c; broilers, 28@30c; fryers, 22@25c; roosters, 16c; ducks, 14c@15c; geese, 10c@11c; turkeys, 20c; squabs, \$2.50@3 per dozen.

Veal—Extras, 9 1/2c; ordinary, 8 1/2@9c; heavy, 7@8c.

Pork—Fancy, 19c per pound.

Hops—1909 contract, 9c; 1908 crop, 8@8 1/2c; 1907 crop, 3@4c; 1906 crop, 1 1/2c.

Wool—Eastern Oregon, 16@21c; valley, fine, 22 1/2c; medium, 21 1/2c; coarse, 20 1/2c; mohair, choice, 24@25c. Cattle—Steers, top, \$5.50@5.75; fair to good, \$4.50@5.25; common to medium, \$4.50@4.75; cows, top, \$4.25@4.50; fair to good, \$3.75@4.25; common to medium, \$2.50@3.50; calves, top, \$6@5.50; heavy, \$3.50@4; bulls and stags, \$3@3.50; common, \$2@2.75.

Hogs—Best, \$7.50@7.75; fair to good, \$7.25@7.50; stockers, \$6@6.50; China fats, \$6.75@7.

Sheep—Top wethers, \$4@4.50; fair to good, \$3.50@4; ewes, 3c less on all grades; yearlings, best, \$4.50; fair to good, \$4@4.25; spring lambs, \$6.

GENERAL STRIKE BEGUN.

French Postal Employes Throw Down Gauntlet to Government.

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

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

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

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

VICTORY FOR LUMBERMEN.

Interstate Commerce Commission Orders Lower Rates.

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

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

NEW CABINET IS IN TROUBLE

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

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

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

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

Losses by Her High Heels.

Oakland, May 12.—Because she was wearing high-heel shoes when she was injured by a fall from a street car, Mrs. Anna Peterson lost her suit for damages against the Oakland Traction company. Counsel for the corporation advanced the plea that Mrs. Peterson was guilty of contributory negligence, as no woman wearing high-heels could expect to navigate a level street, let alone step hurriedly from a street car, without being overbalanced by such footwear. Superior Judge Fred V. Wood held the same view.

Mexican Town Wiped Out.

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

TORNADO ON PRAIRIE

Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma Swept by Wind Storm.

FIVE DEAD AND FIFTY-FIVE HURT

Santa Fe Train Blown Into Ditch by Fierce Wind—Property Damage is Great.

Kansas City, May 15.—A series of tornadoes in Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma late yesterday killed at least five persons, injured 55, laid waste one town, wrecked a train and did great damage to property.

Twenty-five persons were injured by a storm that swept over Mount Washington and Fairmont park, suburbs of Kansas City. At least two of these are thought to be fatally injured.

The town of Hollis, Kan., near Concordia, was swept away. Here three were killed and 10 injured.

Near Great Bend a tornado killed two and injured 20.

All wires are down in that vicinity, and it is feared the death list may be greater.

William Ackerly, a Santa Fe engineer, and Frank Nicholson, a conductor, were killed while with a bridge gang between Great Bend and Kinley.

The tornado wrecked the work train of which Ackerly was engineer, and blew it into a ditch. Several members of the crew were blown 100 feet. The piledriver toppled over, crushing Ackerly to death in his car, where he remained with his hand upon the throttle.

At Hoisington, Kan., a tornado injured a number and greatly damaged farm property. It was not so severe, however, as that passing over other portions of the state.

At Pond creek, Okla., a severe wind storm slightly injured four persons and unroofed several houses.

A blinding rain and hailstorm accompanied the wind in all states. Many washouts demoralized railroad traffic.

The Missouri Pacific main line was washed out near Walcott, between Leavenworth and Kansas City. The Burlington and Santa Fe were forced to annul some of their trains. Electrical disturbances crippled telegraph and telephone wires, and on this account only meager reports from the storm-swept area could be obtained.

A heavy wind, accompanied by rain and hail, prevailed throughout Kansas City. Much minor damage was done, and traffic of all kinds seriously interfered with.

OPEN INDIAN LANDS.

Over 2,000,000 Acres for Settlement in Reservations.

Missoula, Mont., May 15.—Under a Washington date line, the Missoulian this morning prints the following:

At a conference held today by officials of the general land office, the following tentative scheme was decided upon for the registration and opening of the Flathead reservation, in Montana, Coeur d'Alene in Idaho, and the Colville in Washington. The Flathead reservation contains about 1,200,000 acres, the Coeur d'Alene about 400,000 and the Colville about 400,000. All three reservations will be ready for opening this summer, and all three of them will be opened at the same time. Registration points will only be established at towns where there is a United States land office, and all registration points will be for all three of the reservations. The registration points will be Missoula, Kalispell, Coeur d'Alene and Spokane.

The registration period will probably begin July 10 and end on August 15, thus giving five weeks' opportunity for all persons to go to one of the places above designated to register. At the close of registration, August 15, the drawing for numbers will take place for all three of the reservations at Coeur d'Alene City. The drawing is an unimportant item in the general plan and will occupy only one or two days.

Beat Boy Black and Blue.

Des Moines, May 15.—Miss Maude Wing and Miss Ida May Tilden, teachers in the Longfellow school here, were arrested yesterday charged with having beaten 9-year-old David Kaplan until he was black and blue. Tonight at a hearing before Police Judge Stewart the teachers pleaded not guilty. Their trial was set for May 22. The teachers accused the boy of stealing a \$5 bill from Miss Tilden. When he denied the charge, he says, they laid him over a chair and beat him with switches and pinched him.

Record Price for Wool.

Miles City, Mont., May 15.—A sale of a large wool clip has been effected here for the highest price yet heard of this season, namely, 24 cents. The wool was the property of H. B. Wiley, cashier of the First National bank of this city, and went to a Boston house.