

THE WASCO NEWS

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NO. 21.

RESUME OF THE WEEK'S DOINGS

Newsy Items Gathered From All Parts of the World.

General Review of Important Happenings Presented in a Brief and Comprehensive Manner for Busy Readers—National, Political, Historical and Commercial.

One person was killed and two injured in black hand outrages at Pittsburg.

An unknown vessel is reported wrecked a short distance south of San Francisco.

The court martial of General Stoessel is nearing an end. The evidence looks bad for him.

Busch, the great Milwaukee brewer, has declared for a restriction of the liquor traffic.

Souma's band was in a train wreck in Michigan but only one member was hurt and he not fatally.

Several naval vessels are equipped with wireless telephones and experiments thus far are satisfactory.

Chicago does not want the National Democratic convention and the meeting will doubtless be held either at St. Paul or Louisville.

Nearly 50,000 Italians have left the United States since December 1. They are returning to their home country on account of financial stringency.

The California Supreme court has sustained the special holiday statute recently passed by the legislature allowing court sessions on specially called holidays.

A six-day bicycle race is on in New York.

Mrs. Louisa Taft, mother of Secretary Taft, is dead.

Gustav V, son of the dead monarch, is now king of Sweden.

Railroads will not grant reduced rates to national conventions.

American laborers are to replace foreigners in the Pittsburg coke works.

It is definitely known that the dead in the Monongah mine explosion will reach 550.

The Mineowners' association of Goldfield, Nevada, is determined to have an open camp.

Oregon national banks have cash reserves on hand far in excess of the legal requirements.

The call for the Republican National convention has been issued, to meet in Chicago on June 16, 1908.

The tramp steamer Sotoyome, en route from Coquille river to San Francisco with lumber, was burned at sea. The crew all escaped.

J. Dalzell Brown, general manager of a defunct San Francisco trust company, is under arrest for felonious embezzlement, and officers are after another official of the same company.

Taft is on his way to the United States.

Taft's mother is much worse and all hope of her recovery has been given up.

Japan has thanked Roosevelt for the stand he takes on the Japanese exposition.

Harry S. New has been elected chairman of the National Republican committee.

Large amounts of gold continue to come to this country from London and Paris.

The Fort Pitt National bank of Pittsburg has closed. The bank was organized in 1859.

Secretary Cortelyou has sold but half of the Panama bonds. The others will be held until the money is needed.

A mummy has just been brought to New York which is said to be that of a woman who lived about 4,000 years ago.

A strong movement has developed in Japan that may force the government to stop all emigration of laborers to the United States and Canada.

The National Rivers and Harbors congress has petitioned congress to appropriate \$50,000,000 annually for the systematic and uninterrupted improvement of the national waterways.

START WITH NON-UNION MEN

Owners Will Open Up Goldfield Mines Wednesday.

Goldfield, Dec. 10.—Wednesday has been definitely decided upon as the day for reopening the mines in Goldfield.

An authoritative statement was made tonight that already sufficient men are on the ground to work the mines. The total number of those that have been quietly brought in and those who have secretly made application to return to their former positions is placed at 1000. There are about 1,500 Western Federation men out. The men who are to take the places of the strikers are not to be housed at the mines, but will be scattered through the camp and protected, for each individual will be guaranteed protection by the Mineowners' Association.

Two propositions have been positively decided upon, the making of an open camp for all time and the early lowering of the wage scale. At the same time the Mineowners' Association is going to begin a vigorous crusade to lower the cost of living in Goldfield.

Denver, Dec. 10.—The executive board of the Western Federation of Miners tonight issued the following statement concerning the present controversy between the Goldfield Mineowners' Association and the Goldfield Miners' Union:

"On December 6, President Roosevelt issued a proclamation ordering federal troops to proceed to Goldfield, Nev., ostensibly for the purpose of protecting life and property. That there was ever any danger to either person or property is emphatically denied by the officers of Esmeralda county, and by the merchants and citizens of Goldfield. The only reason for the present trouble was the decision of the mine operators to force upon the miners a scrip that would not be taken at par by the railroad company, the Wells-Fargo Express Company, the post-office, the stores or the boarding-houses. Neither would the mineowners guarantee that they would redeem this scrip at any time in the future.

"In refusing to accept this worthless scrip in exchange for their hard labor, the miners of Goldfield are taking a manly stand against the usurpation of governmental functions by unreliable banking firms, which assume the right to set aside the legal money of the nation.

"We desire to call the attention of the American people to the awful disaster at Monongah, W. Va., where 500 coal miners were murdered by the capitalist system in its greed for profits. Had President Roosevelt been as anxious to enforce the laws in West Virginia, had he considered as well the protection of the lives of those miners by demanding that the mineowners safeguard their employees against unnecessary dangers, as he is to send the regular army to crush an organization whose only aim is to better the conditions and make happier the lives of the working class, 500 blackened corpses would not today be laid upon the altar of greed at Monongah, W. Va., around which weep widowed wives and orphaned children.

FOREIGNERS MUST GO.

Eighty Thousand Will Be Replaced by Americans Near Pittsburg.

Pittsburg, Dec. 10.—Independent cokenmakers of the Pittsburg and Connellsville district have decided to decrease the price of producing coke by increasing the price of their workmen. The day of the foreigner has passed, and hereafter none but American born or naturalized citizens of the United States will be employed about the 20,767 ovens of the independent operators. To these Americans will be paid higher wages than was paid to the foreigners, but the operators expect to decrease the cost of production.

There are 29 of these independents who own 20,767 ovens, the H. C. Frick Coke Company, the fuel end of the steel corporation, owning and operating 19,900 ovens.

In the 40,667 ovens in the district, owned by both independents and the steel corporation, there are employed more than 80,000 men, the majority of whom are at the present time foreigners. These men are paid an average of \$85 per month. The statisticians find that of the \$85 a month which the foreigner makes, he puts back into circulation but \$20 a month, living in absolute squalor during his stay in this country. While the remaining \$65 per month is saved.

Valuable Painting Stolen.

Courtrai, Belgium, Dec. 10.—One of Van Dyke's great masterpieces "The Erection of the Cross," has been stolen from the Church of the Notre Dame. The thieves carefully cut off the canvas from the frame and carried it away.

SESSION OPENS WITH GOOD FIGHT

Democrats Denounce Autocratic Rules Adopted by House.

Give Speaker Too Much Power, but Cannon is Re-Elected and Carries His Point—Great Social Outpouring to See Sixtieth Congress Organize.

Washington, Dec. 3.—A brilliant scene characterized the meeting of the Sixtieth congress yesterday. In the senate and house of representatives there were notable gatherings in the galleries of representatives of the official society of the capital.

The striking scenes of the day were in the house of representatives, where the formal selection of Joseph G. Cannon again to be speaker and the designation by the Democrats of John Sharp Williams as their leader, were occasions for ovations for those gentlemen. The speaker was given a warm reception from the minority as from his own party. The appearance of William J. Bryan on the floor of the house also was the occasion for enthusiastic cheering.

When the adoption of the rules for the government of the house during the Sixtieth congress came up, the rules of the last congress were opposed by Williams and he was joined in the opposition by Democrats and by a single Republican, Cooper of Wisconsin. The old rules were declared to be too autocratic, placing too much power in the hands of the speaker, but after a somewhat acrimonious discussion they were adopted by a party vote.

Committees were appointed by both houses to inform the president that congress had met and was ready to receive any message he might wish to communicate. New senators and all the representatives were sworn in and both houses adjourned out of respect to the memory of members who have died during recess of congress.

Promptly at 12 o'clock Clerk McDowell entered the chamber of representatives accompanied by the veteran assistant sergeant-at-arms, Colonel E. S. Pierce, bearing the mace, the emblem of order in executive bodies.

The hum of conversation suddenly ceased and Mr. McDowell declared the body duly in session.

Chaplain Couden immediately offered prayer, after which the roll was called. The roll call occupied 20 minutes, and showed 365 members present.

The senate convened promptly at noon. After Vice President Fairbanks sounded the gavel the proceedings were opened with prayer by the Rev. Edward Everett Hale, chaplain.

La Follette was the first senator recognized, and presented the credentials of Isaac Stevenson, of Wisconsin.

The vice president ordered that the roll of senators-elect be called alphabetically, and they were sworn in and escorted to their desks. All of the senators-elect were present except Bankhead, of Alabama, who is ill.

Under the form observed by the senate neither Bankhead nor Johnson will be sworn in until the deaths of Morgan and Pettus have been acknowledged.

Robert L. Owen and Thomas P. Gore, of Oklahoma, not having been elected to the senate by their legislature, were not received by the senate and their credential will not be accepted until after their election December 10.

The roll call showed 85 senators present. Allison and Teller were designated a committee to inform the president that congress had assembled and is ready to receive any communications. Teller offered resolutions of respect to the memory of Morgan and Pettus, of Alabama, and they were adopted and the senate adjourned at 12:39 p. m.

Insurance Company Fails.

Lincoln, Neb., Dec. 3.—Attorney General Thompson yesterday prepared a petition asking for a receiver for the National Mutual Fire Insurance company, of Omaha. The attorney general alleges that the liabilities of the company are \$253,653 and the assets \$116,779. T. M. Coffin is president of the company and J. L. Abbe secretary.

Japan Recalls Her Envoy.

Washington, Dec. 3.—It was reported here early this morning that Viscount Aoki, the Japanese ambassador, called on the president and Secretary of State Root yesterday and presented his letters of recall.

WAR ON MINERS UNION.

300 U. S. Regulars Now in Camp at Goldfield, Nevada.

Goldfield, Dec. 9.—Encouraged, doubtless, by the presence of federal troops in Goldfield, the Goldfield Mineowners' Association held a meeting yesterday afternoon, and last night gave out a statement in which it is openly said that the members of the association have decided to make a determined struggle to free Goldfield of union domination and make this an open camp.

The statement of the purpose of the mineowners is direct and unequivocal, and throws down the gauntlet to the Western Federation of Miners.

Officers of the association refused to say if any steps have already been taken toward importing non-union miners in sufficient numbers to reopen the mines, which are now idle and rapidly filling with water, but stated that many telegrams are being received hourly, offering men, and that within 48 hours the mines could be opened with the same number of men as were formerly at work in them. One concern in San Francisco it is said, offered to send 1,000 men on an hour's notice.

The officers of the association say, however, that in their belief there are enough men in the camp who will leave the union now to make the importation of men unnecessary, and they are looking for these men to make application early in the week. It is impossible, the operators say, for them to get enough men in the mines at present to operate the pumps and keep them clear of water. Cave-ins are constantly taking place, and other damage is being wrought by reason of the inactivity.

No unusual excitement was caused by the arrival of the first detachment of troops and the crowds that gathered at the depot quickly dispersed after the troops had marched to the mess, in the northwestern part of the city, where they have gone into temporary encampment. Goldfield is quiet and there are no indications of impending trouble.

The Nevada Workman, organ of the mine workers in Goldfield contains a statement by Charles K. MacKinnon, president of the Goldfield Miners' Union, in which he says:

"There is no sane man in the district who will say that there was any need for the federal troops in Goldfield."

The paper says editorially: "It is evident that the Mineowners' Association intends to re-enact the tragic scenes of Colorado. The coming of the troops means nothing short of that. Violence and disorder will ensue upon the arrival of the troops and it is apparent that the gloomy history of Colorado is to be rewritten."

A statement to the public by the Goldfield Mine Operators Association states in the beginning that "repeated outrages against individual rights and banishment from the camp of men desirous of investing in the mines, open looting of every mine carrying high grade ore and deeds of violence have become so unbearable that the owners must either close the mines, hand them over to the union, or make a desperate effort to gain the right to work them as we please. We have chosen the latter alternative, and propose to make one final struggle for the right to manage our own property."

KING OSCAR IS DEAD.

Beloved Ruler of Sweden Sinks Painlessly to the End.

Stockholm, Dec. 8.—King Oscar is dead.

Stockholm, Dec. 8.—Although the theaters and other places of amusement were open as usual last evening, the crowd, numbering thousands, patiently waiting in a pouring rain in front of the palace, testified to the popular sympathy for the aged monarch, whose life was slowly ebbing.

Within the palace, members of the royal family, high ecclesiastics, the Premier and the Minister of Foreign Affairs had been assembled for several hours in the King's study, to which room His Majesty had been removed in bed at noon, when still unconscious. This measure was taken to enable all the family and the officials to be present at the last moments without undue crowding.

The physicians in attendance administered stimulants, consisting of saline solution, camphor and digitalis, which were injected at intervals, and they relieved also as far as possible the vesical trouble from which the King had suffered severely all through the illness.

Lid On in Kalamazoo.

Kalamazoo, Mich., Dec. 9.—Mayor Thompson issued an order that all of the theaters here close during Sunday. The order prohibits "entertainments or any other form of amusement."

EXPLOSION OF BLACK DAMP

Four Hundred Miners Killed in West Virginia.

Only Five Men Have Been Rescued Alive—Many Dead Bodies Being Collected—Terrific Force of Explosion Wrecked Two Mines on Opposite Sides of River.

Monongah, W. Va., Dec. 7.—That not less than 400 miners were killed by an explosion of black damp in mines No. 6 and No. 8 of the Consolidated Coal company, of Baltimore, at this place yesterday, is now conceded by those who take the most hopeful and most conservative view of the disaster. Five badly injured men made their way to the surface.

Of the victims six dead bodies had been taken from mine No. 6 at midnight and 65 more were piled up in the entry awaiting completion of facilities for bringing them to the surface. From mine No. 8 at the same hour, 14 bodies had been removed and a number of others are ready to be brought out as soon as arrangements can be completed.

There is much speculation as to the cause of the explosion, but the most generally accepted theory is that it resulted from black damp, scientifically known as methane. It is believed that a miner attempted to set off a blast, which blew out and ignited an accumulation of this deadly gas, and that this in turn ignited the coal dust, a highly inflammable substance found in greater or less quantities in all West Virginia mines. However, all explanations of the cause up to this time are necessarily speculative. Only a thorough investigation after the mine is reopened will disclose the cause, if it is ever ascertained. The explosion affected both mines, and so far as now known appears to have done about as much damage in one as in the other. It has not been established in which mine it originated.

Three of the living men, while unable to give any detailed report of the disaster, state that immediately back of them, when they began their frantic struggle for liberty, there was a large number of men engaged in a similar struggle, while still further back in the workings there was a larger number of whom they knew nothing. It is the opinion of the mine officials and others familiar with mining that these men had not penetrated the mine as far as had the majority of the day shift, when the explosion occurred, and that they headed for and reached the main entrance before the heavy cave-in that now blockades the entrance not more than a few hundred feet from the entrance.

HELD IN PEONAGE.

Grave Charge Brought Against Civil Service Commissioner.

New Orleans, La., Dec. 7.—That John Avery McIlhenny, member of the United States civil service commission, holds more than 1,000 ignorant foreigners in a state of peonage, and that brutality and cruelty are practiced to force these people to remain on Avery island, La., where the McIlhenny interests operate vast oyster canning and tobacco manufacturing properties, is the charge brought by Stephen Jozca, special commissioner of the Louisiana state government, to which nationality most of the alleged peons belong.

The stories of peonage in certain sections of the South recently were called to the attention of the Austro-Hungarian government, and official warning was given intending emigrants of the dangers ahead of them. Mr. Jozca who is, assistant secretary of the Louisiana state board of immigration was sent to Avery Island by Emile Hoehn the Austro-Hungarian consul in New Orleans following complaints made by one of the immigrants who escaped the McIlhenny guards.

Two Ships Reach Peru.

Callao, Peru, Dec. 7.—The American cruisers Washington and Tennessee, which have arrived, will remain a week, taking on coal. The health conditions aboard the ships are excellent.