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YEAR 1907 LEAVES A RECORD OF DISASTER

Natural Phenomena and Direct Accident Furnish Long Lists of Dead.

EPITOME OF IMPORTANT EVENTS

Recent Financial Disturbance—Oklahoma a State—Fine and Gift of Millions.

The chronicler who scans the record of 1907 that he may write of it finds himself confronted by an exhibit of destruction and disaster that he had not fully appreciated before. Since the opening day of the year the great catastrophes that have been accompanied by large loss of life have numbered 26, an average of slightly more than two for each month. Several of these have been great convulsions of nature. There was the earthquake that destroyed Kingston, Jamaica, out of which came the disagreeable Swettenham incident; subsequently occurred other earthquakes and volcanic eruptions in Mexico, Chile and China. An earthquake and mountain slide that destroyed the town of Karatagh, Russian Turkistan, snuffed out 15,000 lives; a frightful typhoon at Hongkong, China, killed unknown hundreds of the inhabitants. A hurricane in the Caroline Islands wiped out 200 lives; a great flood in Japan caused 600 deaths. Among the catastrophes originating in the operations and enterprises of humanity there have been explosions—several of them in mines, others in blast furnaces and on shipboard—collisions of ships and of railway trains, the collapse of the great uncompleted bridge over the St. Lawrence river near Quebec, and the blowing up of the Du Pont powder works in Fontaine, Ind. All these produced long casualty lists.

The roll of eminent death is also an extensive one. Sweden has lately been called upon to mourn the decease of its beloved king, Oscar II, and his son and successor has assumed the reins of government. In Persia, also, the old Shah has died and a new one ruled. Not death, but abdication has also changed the governmental head in Korea. Politics, art, science, letters, and the platform have each paid its toll to death in the loss of some foremost representatives. Among the names may be recorded those of former President M. Casimir Perier of France, Senators Morgan, Pettus and Alger, Galusha A. Grow, James H. Eckels, Maurice Grau, Richard Mansfield, Joseph Joachim, Edward Grieg, James McGranahan, Col. Will S. Hays, Prof. Alexander S. Herschel, Thomas Batley Aldrich, Dr. John Watson (Ian MacLaren), Theodore Tilton, Mrs. Mary J. Holmes, Francis Murphy and Mrs. Helen M. Gougar. Mrs. Wm. McKinley and John Alexander Dowle are also in the list of the well-known dead.

A financial disturbance of widespread influence has made itself felt during the last three months of 1907.

The number of States in the Union has been increased to 46 by the admission of Oklahoma.

That modern minds are not appalled by large amounts is shown by two of the year's transactions. The Standard Oil Company has been fined \$20,000,000 by a Chicago judge, and John D. Rockefeller has made donations of \$32,000,000 to educational projects.

Two great exhibitions have been held. That at Jamestown, Va., did not receive the patronage expected and is in the hands of a receiver. The other was in Greater Louisville, Ky.

A public work of vast magnitude was begun when Mayor McClellan of New York broke ground for the construction of the great Catskill aqueduct which in a few years is to convey to the metropolis an inexhaustible supply of pure water.

The Harry Thaw trial in New York and the general strike of telegraphers the country over were subjects of much interest to the public while they continued.

The principal happenings of 1907 are briefly given below:

- JANUARY.**
- 1—Wreck on Rock Island near Voland, Kansas, kills 35 persons. Chas. M. Floyd, Republican, elected Governor of New Hampshire by Legislature.
 - 2—Bomb thrown in Fourth Street National bank, Philadelphia.
 - 3—Death of Shah of Persia.
 - 4—James Cullen lynched in Charles City, Iowa. Gen. Vladimir Pavloff assassinated in St. Petersburg. 30 miners killed by explosion in Pittsburg blast furnace.
 - 5—Typhoon in Philippines kills 100 persons.
 - 6—Fire near Strasburg, Germany, causes 20 deaths. \$1,000,000 fire in Lancaster, Pa.
 - 7—Earthquake destroys Kingston, Jamaica.

- 8—Sixty lives lost in two Big Four railroad wrecks in Indiana. Mohamed Ali Mirza crowned Shah of Persia. Admiral Davis and American squadron sent away from Kingston, Jamaica, by Gov. Swettenham.
- 9—Death of Josiah Flynt Willard, tramp and author. England apologizes for Swettenham incident.
- 10—Twenty miners killed by explosion near Primero, Colo. Thaw trial begins in New York.
- 11—Death of Senator R. A. Alger of Michigan.
- 12—Explosion in mine near Saarbrueck, Prussia, kill 300 persons. 100 lives lost by typhoon in Hongkong harbor.
- 13—Ninety miners killed by mine explosion near Thurmond, W. Va.

- FEBRUARY.**
- 1—John D. Rockefeller makes \$32,000,000 gift to educational work.
 - 2—200 lives lost by sinking of Joy line steamer Larchmont off Block Island, R. I. Death of ex-Gov. Frank W. Higgins of New York.
 - 3—25 persons killed and 100 injured in train wreck on New York Central in New York City.
 - 4—\$175,000 stolen from U. S. treasury in Chicago.
 - 5—English steamer Berlin goes down off coast of Holland. 180 lives lost. Cornelius J. Shea and associates acquitted of conspiracy in Chicago. Mrs. Dora McDonald shoots and kills Webster S. Guerin in Chicago.
 - 6—Pennsylvania railroad's 18-hour flyer wrecked near Johnstown, Pa. Missouri Legislature adjourned by small-pox scare.

- MARCH.**
- 1—Fifty-ninth Congress adjourns sine die. Three changes in President's cabinet take effect.
 - 2—Strother brothers in Culpepper, Va., acquitted of murder under "unwritten law."
 - 3—Death of John Alexander Dowle. Will J. Davis freed of responsibility for Inouye theater disaster by Judge Kimbrough of Danville, Ill.
 - 4—Death of M. Casimir Perier, former president of France. Magazine on French battleship Jena explodes at Toulon, killing 80 and injuring 500 persons.
 - 5—Death of Maurice Grau, Impresario.
 - 6—Burning of Helicon Hall, Upton Sinclair's colony, near Englewood, N. J.
 - 7—Greater Louisville exposition opened.
 - 8—Death of Thomas Bailey Aldrich.
 - 9—Many persons killed in riots in Moldavia.
 - 10—Death of Alexander Beaubien, first white male born in Chicago.
 - 11—Death of Galusha A. Grow, former Congressman from Pennsylvania.

- APRIL.**
- 1—Chicago elects Fred A. Buse, Republican, Mayor and approves new traction ordinance by majority of 33,129.
 - 2—Hotel fire in San Francisco kills 17 persons. Lunacy commission declares Harry K. Thaw sane.
 - 3—Howard Nicholas and Leonard Leopold convicted of murder of Mrs. Margaret Leslie in Chicago.
 - 4—Lord Cromer, British ruler in Egypt, resigns.
 - 5—Standard Oil Company convicted in Illinois court of rebating.
 - 6—Death of James H. Eckels of Chicago. Earthquakes at Chilapa, Mexico, and Chilpancingo, Mexico.
 - 7—First Northern's Oriental Limited derailed by wreckers at Hartlet, N. D.
 - 8—Volcanic eruptions in Chile.
 - 9—Great fire in native quarter of Manila.
 - 10—Opening of Jamestown (Va.) Exposition.
 - 11—Hurricane in Caroline Islands kills 200 people.

- MAY.**
- 1—Great loss of life from explosion in Canton, China.
 - 2—Sir Alexander Swettenham retires as Governor of Jamaica.
 - 3—Dr. John Watson (Ian MacLaren) dies in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa. Tornado wipes out towns of Birthright and Ridge-way, Texas.
 - 4—Son born to King Alfonso of Spain.
 - 5—Mystic Shiner special wrecked at Honda, Cal., and 31 lives lost.
 - 6—Mine fire at Valeriana, Mexico, kills 90 men. Earthquake in China kills 4,000 persons.
 - 7—Isaac Stephenson elected United States Senator from Wisconsin.
 - 8—Death of Theodore Tilton in Paris.
 - 9—Death of Mrs. William McKinley.

- JUNE.**
- 1—Oscar II. resumes reign as King of Sweden.
 - 2—Sudden death of Mrs. Helen M. Gougar.
 - 3—Fatal and destructive tornado in Kentucky and southern Illinois and Indiana.
 - 4—Death of Julia Magruder, novelist.
 - 5—Great strike against government in wine growing regions of France. 500 lives lost in burning of Chinese theater in Hongkong.
 - 6—Death of Senator John T. Morgan of Alabama.
 - 7—200 lives lost in hurricane on Caroline Islands.
 - 8—Mayor Schmitz of San Francisco convicted of extortion.
 - 9—Olympic Theater burns in Chicago.
 - 10—Car dissolves the Duma.
 - 11—Death of Prof. Alexander S. Herschel, English astronomer.
 - 12—Mayor McClellan of New York breaks first sod for construction of great Catskill aqueduct.
 - 13—Fire destroys block of buildings adjoining Jamestown exposition.
 - 14—Death of Francis Murphy, temperance evangelist.

- JULY.**
- 1—Fatal windstorm sweeps western Wisconsin.
 - 2—John D. Rockefeller appears as witness in court in Chicago.

- 3—Tornado damages Long Pine, Neb.
- 4—Death of James McGranahan, gospel song writer.
- 5—Assassination of President Fallieres attempted in Paris.
- 6—Powder explosion on battleship Georgia kills 8 seamen and injures 13.
- 7—Emperor of Korea abdicates.
- 8—30 killed in Pere Marquette wreck near Salem, Mich.
- 9—Steamer and freight boat collide off California coast and 150 lives are lost.
- 10—Death of Col. Will S. Hays, ballad writer.
- 11—Death of Senator E. W. Pettus of Alabama.
- 12—Jury in Boise, Idaho, acquits William D. Hayward of murder of Gov. Steunenburg. Big fire at Coney Island, N. Y.

- AUGUST.**
- 1—Standard Oil Co. fined \$29,000,000 for accepting railroad rebates by Judge K. M. Landis of Chicago.
 - 2—Beginning of telegraphers' general strike.
 - 3—Death of Robert A. Pinkerton.
 - 4—Joseph Joachim, violinist, dies in Berlin.
 - 5—Prince Wilhelm of Sweden at Jamestown exposition.
 - 6—Great fire in Hakodate, Japan.
 - 7—Nelson Morris, Chicago packer, dies.
 - 8—Great bridge over St. Lawrence river, near Quebec, collapses, carrying 84 workmen to death.
 - 9—Death of Richard Mansfield.

- SEPTEMBER.**
- 1—Death of Edward Grieg, Norwegian composer.
 - 2—Anti-Japanese outbreak in Vancouver, B. C.
 - 3—Japanese battleship Kashima blows up at Kure with loss of 40 lives.
 - 4—25 lives lost in wreck of excursion train near Canaan, N. H.
 - 5—First election in Oklahoma. Chicago defeats new charter.
 - 6—Frank J. Constanine convicted of murder of Mrs. Louise Gentry in Chicago. Grandstand blown down in Hedges, Pa., and 50 people hurt.
 - 7—Flood in Japan drowns 600 persons.
 - 8—Eight lives lost in B. & O. wreck at Bellair, Ohio.
 - 9—Machinery manufactory dedicated in Canton, Ohio.

- OCTOBER.**
- 1—Death of Mrs. Mary J. Holmes, authoress.
 - 2—Steamship Lusitania crosses Atlantic ocean in four days twenty hours. Death of Mrs. Cassie Chadwick in Columbus (Ohio) penitentiary.
 - 3—Steamship Cyprus wrecked on Lake Superior and 22 lives lost.
 - 4—Town of San Jose del Cabo, Lower California, destroyed by cloudburst.
 - 5—Du Pont powder works near Fontaine, Ind., explodes, killing 50 people.
 - 6—Wall street flurry causes great slump in copper stocks.
 - 7—Paris in New York and the East marked by suspension of Knickerbocker Trust Company and of various financial concerns, appointment of receivers for Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company, and wild scenes on Stock Exchange.
 - 8—Germans win balloon race from St. Louis with France second.
 - 9—New \$20,000,000 Union station opened in Washington.
 - 10—Earthquake and mountain slide destroys town of Karatagh, Russian Turkistan, and causes 15,000 deaths.

- NOVEMBER.**
- 1—Great railway strike in Great Britain called.
 - 2—End of telegraphers' strike. Elections in many States.
 - 3—Death of Dexter M. Ferry, seaman, of Detroit.
 - 4—Death of Moncure D. Conway, American author. Fire destroys town of Cleary, Alaska.
 - 5—Oklahoma admitted to statehood.
 - 6—Jury in Steve Adams case in Bathrum, Idaho, disposes.
 - 7—Thirteen lives lost in New York tenement house fire.
 - 8—Death of Gen. B. D. Pritchard of Allegan, Mich., whose regiment captured Jefferson Davis.

- DECEMBER.**
- 1—Explosion in mine at Fayette City, Pa., kills 40 miners.
 - 2—Sixtieth Congress opens.
 - 3—King Oscar of Sweden resigns government into hands of Crown Prince as regent.
 - 4—Explosion entombs 400 miners at Monongah, W. Va.
 - 5—Death of King Oscar II. of Sweden and accession of his son as Gustaf V.
 - 6—President Roosevelt reiterates his declaration that he will not again be a candidate for chief executive.
 - 7—Dust explosion kills 75 men in mine at Yolande, Ark. Great war fleet sails from Hampton Roads for Pacific.
 - 8—Death of Lord Kelvin, English scientist.

New Principle in Structural Work.
A new principle in engineering practice is described by the Scientific American in the case of a lookout tower built by Alexander Graham Bell, in which the structure is composed of tetrahedrons, and is said to be the first iron structure built on this principle. Each tetrahedral cell, which is the unit of construction, is made of one-half inch iron piping, and measures exactly 48 inches from tip to tip. Two hundred and sixty of these cells were employed in the tower, which rises 70 feet above the ground. Some of the advantages claimed for this method of construction are lightness, great rigidity, rapidity and ease of construction, very little false work being required, and the facility with which any part may be renewed.

Yellow and black pearls are in demand in Europe.

More potatoes are eaten in Belgium than in Ireland.

NEWS OF THE WEEK

In a Condensed Form for Our Busy Readers.

HAPPENINGS OF TWO CONTINENTS

A Resume of the Less Important but Not Less Interesting Events of the Past Week.

Roosevelt predicts Taft's nomination on the first ballot.

A blanket of snow covers the Dakotas, Iowa and Nebraska.

Lord Carson has been persuaded to re-enter English politics.

An eminent French doctor says Kaiser William has consumption.

English are protesting against slavery in the Portuguese colonies.

Kansas City theaters have given up the fight against Sunday closing.

Nearly \$1,000,000 more graft by the Schmitz gang has been discovered.

North Carolina has again refused to pay the bonds issued during the reconstruction days.

There is a monster shipment of war material on the San Francisco docks billed for Manila.

The San Francisco health board has appealed to the people to continue the extermination of rats.

Roosevelt has allowed troops to remain in Goldfield on the promise of Governor Sparks to call a special session of the legislature.

New York is overrun by hundreds of unemployed.

The Twenty-fourth Japanese diet has just convened.

President Roosevelt is hunting turkeys at Pine Knot, Va.

State Treasurer Steel, of Oregon, has filed his new bond in the sum of \$635,000.

Cleveland, Ohio, manufacturers plan a resumption of work for fully 10,000 former employes during January.

Railroads throughout the country have shown the effects of the financial panic by a curtailment of orders for rolling stock.

At a meeting of the Pacific Coast Commercial Travelers' association in San Francisco it was voted to stop gambling among members.

A passenger train collided head-on with a freight near Lenox, Mich. Five trainmen met death. All passengers escaped with but slight injuries.

In a raid on Chinese gambling houses Portland police secured \$10,166.90 in coin and currency and \$4,445.09 of exchange on Hongkong banks. According to law this money may go into the state treasury.

Raleigh, N. C., has voted prohibition.

Dewey has just celebrated his 77th birthday.

Officers and crews of the big fleet are enjoying life at Trinidad.

Henny says special privilege is the root of political corruption.

Reports of New York banks show a recovery from the money crisis.

Accused members of the first Russian donna deny they advised rebellion.

Indiana Republicans have formally endorsed Fairbanks as their candidate for president.

It is said a dark horse has been selected to fill Bristol's place as United States attorney for Oregon.

Burning snowsheds near Truckee, Cal., has greatly delayed Southern Pacific trains between Portland and San Francisco.

Latest developments in the row between naval factions brings out the fact that it is over ranking of officers. Two constructions of the revised statutes is possible and each faction claims it is right.

Five men were killed while working in a Paris subway.

St. Joseph, Mo., has started a crusade against loan sharks.

The New York Republican club has declared for Hughes for president.

All signs of yellow fever has been driven from the Panama canal zone.

Pogot sound steamboat men will cut the pay of their engineers January 1.

EXPRESS CHARGES HIGH.

Wells-Fargo Accused of Discrimination Against Merchants.

San Francisco, Cal., Dec. 31.—Interstate Commerce Commissioner Franklin K. Lane, today held a hearing of the complaint of the California Commercial association, composed of 29 mercantile firms in this city, charging the Wells-Fargo Express company with concealing from the public tariff schedules that had been filed with the Interstate Commerce commission in Washington and with making unjust and discriminatory rates. The actual question involved, however, was whether or not the quantity rate of 8 cents a pound from New York to San Francisco for shipments of 10,000 to 20,000 pounds applied to bulk or assembled shipments, gathered and forwarded by a forwarding agency to one concern of association organized for the purpose of getting the lower rate, the shipment ultimately intended for numerous consignees who were designated by numbers of the labels to the one consignee.

The charges of discrimination are based upon the refusal of the express company to transport a shipment of 16,000 pounds consisting of 443 packages, from New York to the California Commercial association in San Francisco last August, at the bulk or quantity rate of 18 per hundred pounds, the company charging the regular package rate. It is also alleged that the express company charged a higher rate than that published and filed with the Interstate Commerce commission, the latter being willfully concealed and hidden from the public. This complaint avers that it is a distinct violation of the interstate commerce act.

In answer, the express company denies all the allegations made, and charges that the association resorted to subterfuge in order to extort unjust discrimination in its own favor, and based its refusal to grant a quantity rate upon the shipment in question on the ground that, while consigned to one consignee, it was intended for more than a score of firms.

EXPATRIATES IN CHINA.

Judge Wilfley Wants Congress to Make Laws for Them.

San Francisco, Cal., Dec. 3.—Judge L. R. Wilfley, of the United States court at Shanghai, against whom charges of improper conduct of his court have been preferred at Washington, arrived in San Francisco this morning on the Pacific Mail liner Manchuria from the Orient, and after a stay of two days in this city will proceed to the national capital. On board the Manchuria with Judge Wilfley was F. M. Brooks, a lawyer, who has filed an action for \$50,000 damages at Honolulu, charging the head of the court in the Far East, together with his clerk, L. R. Hiekel, with conspiracy in stopping the practice of Brooks in Shanghai.

Judge Wilfley denied that he was going to Washington to meet the charges preferred against him.

"I am going to Washington," he said, "to aid in drawing an act that will extend to Americans in China a more complete body of laws than they now have. The laws now in force comprise little more than is embodied in the common law and are so indefinite as to be absolutely useless. It will be suggested to congress that the California code of laws be made to extend to China, wherein such laws are applicable."

"In addition to this matter, I am journeying East that congress may be asked for an appropriation for a proper Federal building at Shanghai, where the American consulate and courts may be under one roof."

Jail Wrecking Glass' Health.

San Francisco, Dec. 31.—Affidavits have been sworn on District Attorney Langdon by T. C. Coogin, Louis Glass' attorney, in his attempt to get his client out of jail. The district attorney will file counter affidavits. Dr. Roland E. Hartley and Dr. J. M. Williamson state in their affidavits that they visited Louis Glass at the county jail and that he showed "marked general physical deterioration and general derangement." They say they found him in a nervous condition which will permanently injure his health.

Raises Rent of Hot Springs.

Chicago, Dec. 31.—A dispatch to the Tribune from Hot Springs, Ark., says: Announcement was made yesterday that the United States would double the price for its healing hot waters after the first of the year, and that all bathhouse leases also would be doubled. A protest will be sent at once to Washington. The hot water now is dispensed by the government at \$30 per annum for each tub supplied. The bathhouse owners state they are unable to meet the raise.

Garnets in New York Bedrock.

New York, Dec. 31.—That New York City rests on a vast mass of garnets is the discovery of Ralph E. Morgan, an English mineralogist, now visiting here. In a mass of rock thrown up from a subway excavation, he discovered a large garnet. On the dumping ground at Sheepshead bay he found a number of excellent garnets.

EPIDEMIC OF GRIPPE

Spreads Through the East Like Prairie Fire.

VICTIMS BY TENS OF THOUSANDS

Fearful That Epidemic May Surpass That of 1889-90—Street Car Service is Crippled.

Chicago, Dec. 31.—Deadly grippé, which has already fastened itself upon nearly every city east of the Mississippi river, is spreading westward with appalling rapidity. Not since the terrible epidemic of 1889-90 have there been such ravages by the fearful malady as at the present time, according to special dispatches gathered from many sources. Mild, open weather, highly unseasonable, is held responsible by health authorities.

Pittsburg is the chief complainant. So many people there are ill that the streetcar service is crippled and office buildings are practically empty. Besides Pittsburg, New York, Baltimore, Cincinnati, Philadelphia, Cleveland, Boston, Milwaukee and other Eastern and Western cities were reported to be wrestling with the disease, a number of deaths in each city occurring daily.

"La grippe, as the French call it," said Dr. Herman Spaulding, of the Chicago Health department, "travels with the speed of a prairie fire. It travels along the lines of transportation, as it is carried by travelers from one city to another. It is decidedly contagious and there is no effective way of checking its spread. If other cities become badly affected, Chicago is sure to be hit, because of the thousands of travelers who arrive daily in Chicago from every point of the compass."

From New York word comes that the grippé has begun a devastating crusade in that city and that amongst its victims have been opera singers and many actors and actresses. There were 63 deaths in the metropolis last week. Besides this there were many deaths from pneumonia, influenced by the grippé bacillus.

Physicians in Boston say there are at least 60,000 cases now in that city. Cincinnati has 2,000 cases and physicians say that new cases are developing by the score every hour.

ON SECOND STAGE.

Battleship Fleet Leaves Trinidad for Rio Janeiro.

Port of Spain, Dec. 31.—The American battleship fleet weighed anchor at 4 o'clock Sunday afternoon and steamed for Rio Janeiro. Accompanying the fleet were the supply ships Colgoa and Glacier. Early in the morning the signal went up from Rear Admiral Evans' flagship Connecticut to prepare for departure at 8 a. m., but owing to a delay in the coaling of the battleship Maine from the collier Fortuna, it was necessary to change the time of sailing.

Long before the hour set a myriad of small craft, chiefly launches and steam yachts, moved up and down along the lines of anchored battleships, the merry parties aboard shouting farewells to the departing visitors. Thousands of residents climbed the surrounding hills to view the great ships as they moved onward on their journey of 3,000 miles and more, while boatloads of excursionists went to the small islands in the gulf and others to the floating dock to catch the last glimpse of the ships.

The fleet presented a magnificent appearance as it steamed out in four columns with the supply ships trailing, a distance of 400 yards separating one division from another. With the Connecticut in the lead the battleships headed for the Boca and steamed majestically through the grand Boca and thence along the northern coast of Trinidad. An average of from 10 to 11 knots an hour will carry the fleet to the end of the second lap of the 14,000-mile journey in about 12 days, and it was announced by Admiral Evans before his departure that he expects to reach Rio Janeiro on Friday evening January 10.

Natives Facing a Famine.

Hillsdale, Mich., Dec. 31.—Secretary H. S. Myers, of the general conference of Free Baptists, said today: "According to advices just received by me from our missions in Bengal and Orissa, India, four months of rain is the usual allowance in Lucknow, India, in a year, but during the year 1907 it has rained only four days. The result is famine everywhere. Thousands of the population are suffering and before relief comes next August hundreds of thousands must die unless relief comes from Christian lands."

Earthquake Breaks Company.

Hamburg, Dec. 31.—The Trans-Atlantic Fire Insurance company has voted to liquidate on account of the fact that more than half of its capital was lost by the San Francisco fire and earthquake.