

NINETEEN LIVES LOST IN ST. LOUIS BLAZE

FIRE FOLLOWS EXPLOSION IN CLUB BUILDING

Missouri Athletic Club, Finest in St. Louis, Destroyed—Nineteen Missing and Supposed Dead—Seven Bodies Recovered.

Flames Spread With Frightful Rapidity—Twenty Men Slide Down Rope From Twisted Bed Clothing.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., March 9.—All doubt that the Missouri Athletic club fire began with an explosion was removed this afternoon when firemen got into the Boatmen's bank. Chief Henley of the Fire Prevention bureau, attributed it to a gas leak in the cellar. In some way the escaping gas evidently was ignited. The bank's vaults were safe. Portions of the standing walls of the club building fell this afternoon and many firemen had narrow escapes. The danger interfered with the search of the ruins for bodies.

ST. LOUIS, March 9.—Nineteen are believed to be the number of deaths in the Missouri Athletic club fire here. Seven corpses have been recovered. For all others the club officials had accounted. Those still missing were thought to have perished. Nearly all the victims were residents of St. Louis.

The fire began with an explosion shortly after midnight. The flames spread with frightful speed, quickly cutting off the Fourth street fire escapes.

Operator's Heroism

But for the heroism of N. Rowe, the telephone operator, a man, the number of killed probably would have run into three figures, as indeed, it was at first reported to have done. Rowe stuck at his post, arousing the occupants of rooms, until his wires failed.

In the meantime the guests of the club were crowding to the windows, seeking means of escape. From one window on the fourth floor twenty men slid down a rope of twisted bed clothing to the roof of an adjoining building.

At 3 a. m. the building's east wall collapsed upon the bank on the ground floor, burying the vaults. Bank officials said they contained \$1,349,449 in currency and \$27,164 in specie.

Fire Spreads Rapidly

With the wall's fall, the fire spread to an adjoining building occupied by the St. Louis Seed company, which was still burning fiercely at 8 a. m.

Thirty nozzles were at that hour playing on the fire, but the club building's south wall was momentarily expected to fall.

The club was among the most fashionable in the city. The building it occupied was at Fourth and Washington streets. On the ground floor was the Boatmen's bank, which also was destroyed. Early reports of the loss of life were greatly exaggerated.

The missing clubmen were:
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INVASION OF MEXICO DENIED BY TEXANS

AUSTIN, Tex., March 9.—Captain Sanders of the troop of Texas Rangers who received the body of Clemente Vergara when it was brought to the border Saturday night telephoned to Governor Colquitt today that the corpse was turned over to him by Mexican federals. Neither he nor his men crossed the border, he said, but the federals notified him they would surrender the body to him if he would go to a point opposite the town of Hidalgo. He went, and the federals kept their promise. He said he did not know their names. Colquitt reported accordingly to President Wilson.

JAMES J. HILL LEAVING WHITE HOUSE AFTER VISITING WILSON



James J. Hill, who built the Great Northern railroad and now controls both it and the Northern Pacific, with several other lines, was a recent visitor to the white house to talk over railroad matters with President Wilson. He spent some time there and

walked out to his hotel. Mr. Hill does not pose for the photographers and they have found it difficult to get any pictures of him, but this time they found him in front of the White House grounds on Pennsylvania avenue.

FIDDLER YEAR AS MEXICO BURNED ASSERTS SENATOR

WASHINGTON, March 9.—"For a year past we have fiddled while Mexico burned," Senator Fall of New Mexico told the upper house today. "We have seen Americans outraged and murdered and hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of property destroyed. We have declared that no government existed in Mexico. "We owe a duty to Spain, whose citizens have been murdered and driven like dogs from a country where they had a perfect right to be. We owe a duty to England, to Germany and to France, whose citizens General Villa has openly threatened to deal with as he dealt with the Spanish."

Fall concluded with a strong demand for intervention.

REBEL ATTACK ON TORREON BEGUN

MEXICO CITY, March 9.—The rebels attacked Torreon today, according to official dispatches received at the war ministry here. Two thousand soldiers were sent from here by special train to strengthen the garrison.

News was received that rebels had dynamited a passenger train near Hornos, killing a dozen prominent persons. The surviving passengers fled.

The federals have executed Salvador Cortes, the Mexican poet, with four other rebel leaders, in Yucatan.

VERA CRUZ, March 9.—That another rebel attack on Tampico was imminent was indicated today by wireless dispatches received by Admiral Fletcher here. The federals had beaten them off, however, it was stated, when they assaulted Altamira, a suburb. The rebels have captured Chicoutepac, in this state.

FOOTPAD ROBS AUTHORESS GERTRUDE ATHERTON

CHICAGO, March 9.—It was learned that Saturday night a footpad robbed Mrs. Gertrude Atherton, the novelist, of her handbag, containing money and valuable trinkets, spraining her wrist as he jerked it away.

RAID BY TEXAS RANGERS ACROSS BORDER DESIRED

Governor Colquitt States That Party of Americans Crossed Line and Seized Body of American Executed by Federals.

Administration to Hold Parties Responsible for Unauthorized Invasion of Mexican Territory.

AUSTIN, Tex., March 9.—Governor Colquitt denied positively today that Texas Rangers invaded Mexico to get the body of Clemente Vergara, the American recently executed by federal troops near Nuevo Laredo. Friends of Vergara, he said, made the trip across the border, disinterred the body, brought it back with them and turned it over to the authorities.

Captain Sanders of the Rangers advises me that neither he nor his men entered Mexico at all," said Colquitt. "He was informed that Vergara's body would be delivered at the border at 3:30 Sunday morning. So he went to the appointed place and found it. Who brought it across the river he does not know. Relatives of Vergara fully identified the corpse."

The incident was regarded here as placing the Mexican officials at Nuevo Laredo in an awkward position, inasmuch as they had asserted Vergara was alive with the rebels.

Texans Held Responsible

WASHINGTON, March 9.—The Texas authorities must assume responsibility for Saturday night's invasion of Mexican territory by the party which brought back the body of Clemente Vergara, the American recently executed by federals near Nuevo Laredo.

Unless Governor Colquitt makes an immediate and satisfactory report, President Wilson will call for one by telegraph.

The president made these two things plain to white house callers today. He made it clear, too, that he would not consider the raid's object—he would take into account only the fact that it was an unauthorized invasion of Mexican territory.

Await Investigation

If the invasion was by Texas Rangers, it was explained, it might be necessary for the government officially to disavow their act and to rebuke those who permitted it.

The president did not intend to act hastily, however. He indicated that a full investigation was being made, and until it was finished neither he nor Secretary of State Bryan would have anything further to say on the subject.

The executive did, however, deny vigorously that the Washington administration had advanced knowledge that a raid was intended, and he also discredited reports that United States Consul Garret, at Nuevo Laredo, was cognizant of it until it was over.

The administration, said the president, has made every effort to prevent armed Americans from crossing the border into Mexico. It was true, he explained, that the Vergara

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FEDERAL PLUMS SHAKEN BY WILSON

WASHINGTON, March 9.—The following nominations were sent to the senate today:

George Day, to be postmaster at Walla Walla, Wash.

Frank Langley, to be register of the land office at Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

Frank McCall of Sandpoint, to be receiver of public moneys at Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

Jacob Mayer, to be receiver of public moneys at Havre, Mont.

SHOW GIRL AND INDIAN CHIEF GET MARRIAGE LICENSE



Capitan, who says he is chief of the Apachians tribe of Indians in China, is going to wed Miss Cecil Burton, a show girl. They went to the marriage license bureau in the New York city hall the other day and got a license. Of course a very large crowd watched them, and for a time it seemed that many police might have to be called to clear the way for them.

Miss Burton says she met the chief in Winnipeg a year ago and fell in love with him. Her home is in Maryland, but she has been in New York for some time. The chief, who is 35 years of age, looks much like any American Indian and dresses and acts like one. But since Indians of any kind are seldom seen in New York he has created much interest.

AMERICAN GIRL TO BE DEPORTED FROM ENGLAND

LONDON, March 9.—As a sequel to a suffragette demonstration in Trafalgar square attending Miss Sylvia Pankhurst's rearrest under the "cat and mouse" act, there seemed today a strong probability that Miss Zelle Emerson of Jackson, Mich., who had been prominent for some time in British suffragette circles, would be deported as an undesirable alien. It was admitted that the home office was considering the step.

Miss Pankhurst had arrived in the square to address a suffragette gathering, but was pounced upon by the police and hustled away toward Holloway jail before the women fairly realized she was there. She was reimprisoned under a suspended sentence for militant activity.

As soon as they understood what had happened the suffragettes surged down Whitehall toward the government buildings, and when a line of police barred their way many of the women attacked them with clubs. In dispersing them the police made ten arrests, including Miss Emerson.

MASS MEETING OF FRUITGROWERS CALLED FOR NEXT WEDNESDAY

A mass meeting of the fruit-growers of Jackson county will be held Wednesday, March 11, at 2:30 p. m., in the public library to discuss the matter of the office of county pathologist and to take such action, if any, in regard thereto as they may deem wise.

This matter is vitally important and every fruit grower and others interested in the subject are earnestly requested to attend this meeting.

BLIGHT COMMITTEE

F. H. Madden, chairman.
E. W. Carlton, secretary.

VAN DYKE'S SON SUCCEEDS FATHER AS ROAD BOSS

The county court Monday appointed Everett Van Dyke, son of the late Sam Van Dyke, road supervisor for the Phoenix district, to fill the unexpired term of his father, whose chief assistant he has been.

Attorney Gus Newbury requested the court to issue a statement exonerating Clyde Barnum from charges of dishonesty as a fruit inspector, which the court agreed to, although stating that the charges of insubordination were sustained.

Viewers were appointed for the proposed change in the Pacific highway through the Billings' property at Ashland, preparatory to instituting condemnation proceedings. Mr. Billings is the only property owner along the highway route who has refused to give right of way.

An order was made directing the sheriff to turn over to the county delinquent tax certificates for property on which taxes have been delinquent since 1907. The property will be sold to collect the taxes.

FOUR DAYS STARVING IN REFRIGERATOR CAR

PHILADELPHIA, March 9.—After four days' starvation, intense cold and semi-suffocation in a Baltimore & Ohio refrigerator car, Joseph Comiskey, 18, seemed in a fair way to recover at the Philadelphia hospital.

Comiskey left his home at Richmond, Va., following a quarrel with his parents, and crawled into what he supposed was an ordinary box-car in the train yards to sleep. When he awoke the car was on its way to Philadelphia. He was unconscious when the car was unsealed.

Many of the forest fires attributed to railroads are caused not by sparks from locomotives, but by cigar and cigarette butts thrown from smoking car windows.

BANK DEPOSITS GAIN 17 PERCENT PAST QUARTER

Steady Gain in Resources Indicates Business Revival Under Way—Each Statement Since Last July Better Than One Preceding.

Total Deposits of Four Medford Banks Nearly Three Millions—All in Prosperous Condition.

Reports of the four banks of Medford for the first three months of 1914 show an increase of slightly over 17 per cent in deposits over the last 1913 quarter, a livelier tone to southern Oregon's financial conditions and a tendency of depositors to loan and withdraw cash held inactive for the last nine months.

The total deposits of the four banks for the quarter ending December 31 were \$2,494,414.77, and the quarter ending March 4 showed \$2,820,916.86, an increase of \$326,475.09.

The increase individually in the local banks is as follows:
Farmers' & Fruitgrowers' bank—Deposits December 31, \$1,179,617.78; March 4, \$2,008,861.69.

Medford National—Deposits December 31, \$782,691.14; March 4, \$889,287.42.

Jackson County—Deposits December 31, \$649,809.20; March 4, \$779,798.97.

First National—Deposits December 31, \$882,288.95; March 4, \$950,968.78.

All show material gains, auguring prosperous conditions and a steady business revival.

This report shows a still higher gain over the October report, and compared with the July report shows the upward tendency of the times since the low-water mark in Rogue River valley conditions. All of the bank officials express a hopeful and optimistic view of the coming year.

IRON WORKERS LOSE APPEAL TO SUPREME COURT

WASHINGTON, Mar. 9.—The conviction in Indianapolis courts of about 20 union men, charged with unlawfully transporting dynamite, was affirmed today by the United States supreme court.

The supreme court's decision means that Frank M. Ryan, president of the International Association of Bridge and Structural Ironworkers, and 23 other union men, convicted at Indianapolis, must serve out their sentences. The court refused to review the conviction, and its denial of a review exhausted the defendant's last resource.

SONORA OFFICIALS UNDER ARREST ON GRAFTING CHARGES

DOUGLAS, Ariz., Mar. 9.—Governor Jose Maytorena and State Treasurer Randall, of the Mexican state of Sonora, are under arrest today at Hermosillo, the capital, charged with embezzlement. Their arrest was the climax of the disension that has existed among the constitutionalist leaders in Sonora for months.

According to dispatches from Hermosillo, General Obregon, constitutionalist militia leader of Sonora, who caused the arrests, declared the men systematically looted the rebel treasury, sending \$100,000 in small installments to banks at Nogales, Arizona.