

The Weather

Prediction Fair
Maximum yesterday 96
Minimum today 46

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

Weather Year Ago
Maximum 72
Minimum 54

MEDFORD, OREGON, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1922

NO. 154

BODIES OF 47 MINERS FOUND, ALL DEAD

GREAT BRITAIN THREATENS TO BREAK WITH FRANCE

NOTES LEFT BY VICTIMS INDICATE DEATH WAS QUICK AND MERCIFUL

California Mining Town Accepts Tragedy With Stoical Christian Fortitude—Grim Work of Bringing Bodies to Surface Is Started—Red Cross Leads in Bringing Material Aid and Heartfelt Sympathy to Bereaved Families—Notes Penned By Dying Men Indicated Death Quickly Followed the Starting of Fire On August 28th—Families to Receive Insurance

JACKSON, Calif., Sept. 19.—(By the Associated Press.)—Jackson, mining town in the Mother Lode country, has paid the toll demanded of those who delve in the earth for gold, and stands unafraid but not dry-eyed today.

Forty-seven of her men died in the Argonaut mine early on the morning of August 28, she learned last night, and today she awaits the bringing of their bodies from the rock tunnel walled in with flimsy bulkheads of their own building that has been their tomb for three weeks. But her men showed they knew how to die. Moreover, those who did not meet that fate showed they know how to live, for they gave of themselves without stint in the effort to save their entombed fellows. It was California's worst mine disaster, in one of California's greatest gold producers.

Story of the Disaster
Three weeks ago last Sunday night men deep in the Argonaut, believed they smelled smoke. A shift boss took two men and went to investigate. They found the shaft afire at the 3600 foot level, chanced death from gas and were carried through the fire to the top of the mine. Then began a work of fire fighting which presently merged into one of rescue for the men below, for the fire blocked the shaft and prevented the escape of the miners.

Men came from all over the west to offer their services, the curious fellowship of miners bringing hearty offers of service from all who could get to Jackson. Mining companies in distant states, even in Mexico, telegraphed proffers of assistance. The Kennedy Mining company, operators of an adjoining shaft, sunk the bitterness of a lawsuit in its willingness to be of service and loaned all its property and facilities to the work of rescue. For many weary days, disappointed sometimes by unexpected difficulties and heartened sometimes by equally unexpected bits of good luck, rescue crews drove through the choked tunnels which had once connected the two mines or battered at the rock separating one of the Kennedy's drifts from the Argonaut's 4200 foot level.

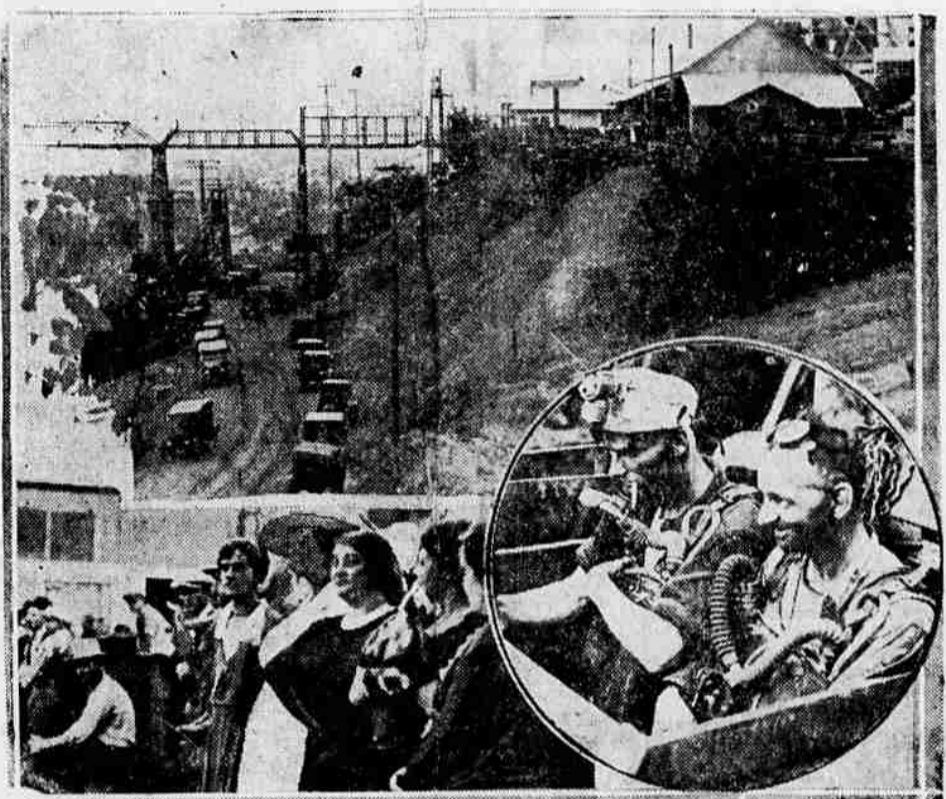
Early yesterday a drill was driven through the last barrier of rock into the Argonaut. Sweating shoulders and unbreakable wills drove steel picks at the rock until this hole had been enlarged enough to permit a man to pass.

Five men made a hasty unauthorized exploration of part of the Argonaut, seeking survivors at the imminent risk of their own lives. The opening was enlarged so that a rescue crew could pass and all day explorations went on without any result. The levels were clear, there was no sign of any miner left in them, either dead or alive. The rescue men, hampered by their oxygen helmets and the heat of the underground workings, turned their attention to exploring the cross cuts and drifts leading from the tunnels already traversed. In one they found a bulkhead that had not been there when the miners went below that fatal midnight three weeks ago.

Hope Was Aroused
Hope rose anew at this evidence that some, at least of the entombed men had not died an instant death from the gases thrown off by the fire in the shaft and the rescuers pressed on. They found another bulkhead not built of planks and timbers and stuffed with torn clothing like the first, but erected of earth, rock and debris. It was a pitiful structure, gaping in places so that the rescuers could see through it, but it checked the air currents and the men in the oxygen helmets halted before it, afraid to tear it down while the air before it was poisonous lest they thereby cause sudden death to any who might be alive beyond it.

Bodies Are Found
Hope stood at its highest peak when this second bulkhead was found, and from that height it made its greatest

Rescue Scene at Argonaut Mine



The photograph above was taken at the entrance of the Argonaut mine, three days after the fire broke out. Some of the valiant rescuers are shown, with their helmets and oxygen tanks ready to enter the mine shaft, while wives of the entombed miners are standing near anxiously awaiting word from their loved ones. In no tragedy in the history of mining disasters was hope and despair ever so mingled as in this California tragedy. All hope was abandoned innumerable times only to be revived again when encouraging reports were received from the rescuers. The one bright spot in the situation when the bodies were finally found, was that apparently none of the men suffered but met a quiet and merciful death a few hours after the fire started.

PRESIDENT HARDING VETOES THE BONUS MEASURE

INDEPENDENTS EXPLAIN STAND ON K. K. K. ISSUE

Executive Committee Reiterates Its Position As Constructive One of Cleaning Both Big Parties of Klan Incubus—Still Loyal.

To the voters of Jackson and Josephine counties: The self-styled leaders of the Republican and Democratic parties in Jackson county, through published resolutions, have attempted to rebuke the action of life-long, active and honored members of both parties who have condemned the influence of Ku Kluxism in politics. To assure the honest and intelligent voters of all parties of our integrity of purpose, we make the following brief statement: We are loyal to the principles of the great political parties with which we have been affiliated, most of us from our first votes. We have never given cause for doubt of our honest loyalty to and interest in these parties. But, we have declined to be "kluxed." As loyal American citizens, we must uphold constitutional government and the orderly execution of law. We denounce the effort of the leaders of the Ku Klux Klan to overthrow the former or to interfere with the latter. We decline to vote for any candidate at the fall election in Jackson county, or the state of Oregon, who will avow or practice greater allegiance to the "Invisible Empire of the Ku Klux Klan" than to the constitution of the state of Oregon or of the United States of America, no matter upon what ticket his name may appear. We shall likewise endeavor to defeat the election to office in Jackson county or the state of Oregon, of any candidate, who is affiliated or in sympathy with, or apologetic for, such an organization. We have organized for this purpose, and this purpose alone. In so doing we best serve the great parties to which we are and

NO REVENUE PROVIDED IS MAIN PLEA

Chief Executive Declares He Is in Accord With Purposes of Measure, But Fails to See Where Money Will Come From—Ailing Veterans Should Come First.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 19.—The soldiers' bonus bill was vetoed today by President Harding. In returning the measure to congress without his approval, the executive, in a message to the house, declared that he was in accord with the avowed purposes of the bill, but that he could not subscribe to its provisions. Outlining his reasons for the veto the president said the congress had failed, first of all to provide the revenue from which the bestowal was to be paid. He added that the ultimate cost could not be estimated definitely, but that the treasury figured the total at \$750,000,000 for the first four years with a final charge in excess of \$4,000,000,000. Mr. Harding told congress the proposed service certificates, substituted for the original cash payment would constitute borrowing "on the nation's credit just as truly as though the loans were made by direct government borrowing." He added that this involves a "dangerous abuse of public credit." The executive declared that it was essential "to remember that a more than \$4,000,000,000 pledge to able service men would not diminish the later obligation" which the veterans contributed to the "rolls of the aged, indigent and dependent." This obligation, he said, "would cost more billions than I venture to suggest."

STRIKE TANGLE IS CLEARING UP SOUTH AND EAST

Southern Railway, Mobile and Ohio and Monon Fall in Line With Roads Accepting Baltimore Plan—Men Are Returning to Work.

CHICAGO, Sept. 19.—Adjustment of misunderstandings and differences which delayed the expected settlement of the railway shopmen's strike on some of the roads favorable to the Baltimore peace arrangements was apparent today. There were rising hopes that Bert M. Jewell, the shop crafts leader, would iron out with officials of the New York Central lines, differences which prevented an agreement between striking shopmen and the roads which form the New York Central system. Those hopes were strengthened when the Southern Railway, the Mobile and Ohio, controlled by the Southern, and the Monon, fell in line with roads accepting the Baltimore plan and signed the agreement. Many strikers on these roads were expected back at work today. Reports of a general return to work by shopmen on roads which agreed to the Baltimore plan brought predictions by union leaders that the estimated number of 50,000 returned strikers on various roads would be doubled within a few days. Shop forces generally, were estimated in railroad circles today at about 85 per cent of normal.

BRITISH CABINET WILL TAKE MILITARY ACTION ALONE IF COMPELLED

Lloyd George's Cabinet Decides to Fight Turks Alone if France and Italy Withdraw Troops—French Cabinet Supports Poincare's Policy of Hands Off and Troops Are Ordered Out of Asia Minor—Lord Curzon Dispatched to Paris to Attempt Agreement With France—Serious Breach Between England and Allies Threatened—British Fleet Ready.

LONDON, Sept. 19.—(By the Associated Press.)—The British cabinet takes the attitude that Great Britain will undertake military action alone if necessary, independent of France and Italy, to protect the freedom of the Dardanelles, it was authoritatively stated after this forenoon's protracted cabinet meeting.

An official communique issued from Downing street this afternoon declares in substance that the government stands by its pronouncement of the policy issued to the press Saturday notwithstanding newspaper reports to the contrary.

PARIS, Sept. 19.—(By the Associated Press.)—The French cabinet today unanimously approved what is characterized as the "Pacific" policy of Premier Poincare in the Near East and the withdrawal of French troops from Asia Minor to the French side of the straits of the Dardanelles.

The cabinet went firmly on record as being opposed to any form of military action as a means of settlement in the Turko-Greek situation. It emphasized the necessity of reaching an agreement through diplomatic channels and eventually by a peace conference.

Hope for Agreement
ROME, Sept. 19.—Foreign Minister Schanzer's attitude regarding the Near Eastern problem is approved by the cabinet, it is announced. Italy, it is stated, is in agreement with her allies, insisting upon the freedom of the straits of Dardanelles, and hopes that the questions outside the Greco-Turk conflict and having a larger scope will be settled at a conference.

PARIS, Sept. 19.—(By Associated Press.) The center of the allied deliberations on the Near Eastern problem shifted to this city today with the journey here of Lord Curzon, British foreign secretary, and the Jugo-Slav premier, M. Nincichich.

Lord Curzon's task, press dispatches indicate, is to convince Premier Poincare that England does not intend to make another Gibraltar of the straits of the Dardanelles but that bigger issues are at stake.

The Balkan states are expected to follow France's lead and thus Britain hopes, by swinging the latter to her point of view to present a solid front to the Turks. Premier Nincichich is quoted in a dispatch from London as declaring "I am inclined to think after my interview with the British ministers that England and France can yet agree on this thorny question."

Receipt of further assurances that Mustapha Kemal Pasha has no intention of attacking the neutral zones of the Dardanelles or crossing Thrace has served to strengthen the French attitude and it is said that Lord Curzon, far from converting Premier Poincare, is more likely to be converted himself.

Indeed, the French government is so confident that there is no fear of trouble from the Kemalists that two French battalions have been or shortly will be withdrawn from Chanak, the key position on the southern shore of the straits.

The Italian detachment also has been withdrawn and competent opinion here is that the British may leave also, as, according to the Paris morning newspapers, signs are not wanting that the government of rather Prime Minister Lloyd George is already backing water and that such semi-official statements of policy no longer represent the British view.

The British cabinet now is understood to be largely concerned with political preparation for proposed general conferences for settlement of the entire question.

U. S. A. to Feed Refugees
At this morning's cabinet meeting, Lord Curzon, secretary for foreign affairs, received final instructions for his coming conference with Premier Poincare. The report that the French would withdraw from the Asiatic neutral zone was not taken as raising a serious issue, since the French

never had many troops there and the district is in the hands of the British.

The refugee problem at Smyrna was discussed. The question of how the thousands of homeless and hungry people can be removed is admittedly a large one. Plenty of Greek ships are available for their transportation, but Kemal authorities will not allow these ships to dock. It is believed, however, that arrangements can be made with the nationalists to permit these ships to land. It was reported that the American relief organizations would continue to feed some 15,000 refugees.

Smyrna Situation Serious
The situation in Smyrna is still one of the gravest character. The reign of terror continues among the Christian population and French troops are reported to have fired upon Turkish irregulars whom they caught killing and pillaging.

Armenians and Greeks are dying by the score from exposure, fright and exhaustion. Ten thousand Italians and twelve thousand French were evacuated from the city yesterday. The food stocks have become exhausted and the people are eating horse flesh. American relief workers distribute flour, which the famished refugees devour raw.

Mustapha Kemal has requested the allies to permit his army to occupy Thrace, insisting that the Dardanelles question can be discussed later with all the Black Sea countries participating. He declares it is vital that the nationalists occupy the territory, in order to liberate the Moslem population, which he says is oppressed by the Greeks.

The nationalist representative here has informed the British high commissioner that the Ankara government, by virtue of treaties concluded with soviet Russia and the Ukraine, cannot accept the invitation of the powers for a conference confined only to discussion of the Dardanelles question unless delegates from Russia and the Ukraine are allowed to participate.

GENEVA, Sept. 19.—(By the Associated Press.)—A request that the League of Nations send a neutral commission to investigate the alleged atrocities by the Turkish nationalists in Asia Minor was presented to the league assembly today by the Persian delegation on behalf of the Turkish national parliament.

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Pear Market News

SAN FRANCISCO—(Special wire to Mail Tribune)—Bartlett pears, per box, New York, \$2.25 @ 3.10; Chicago \$2.40 @ 2.75.

SALEM, Ore., Sept. 19.—Ernest Miller, a former resident of Salem. (Continued on page eight)

WASHINGTON, Sept. 19.—Presi- (Continued on page eight)