

TERRIBLE EXPLOSION

Six Men Killed and a Hundred or More Injured.

POWDER STOREHOUSE IN NEW YORK CITY

Used by Builders of the New Rapid Transit Tunnel—Adjacent Buildings Ruined—Property Loss Enormous.

New York, Jan. 29.—The reserve supply of high explosives stored at the Park avenue shaft of the Rapid Transit tunnel, now in course of construction, blew up shortly after noon today. The giant blast killed six persons, injured 100 others and damaged all the property reached by the flying debris and the vibration of the shock.

The irregular square formed by the Murray Hill hotel on the west, the Manhattan Eye and Ear hospital and the Grand Union hotel on the east, and the Grand Central station on the north, was the scene of the explosion. The buildings named sustained the greatest damage, but the area extended for several blocks in the four directions from the center.

General alarms brought firemen, police reserves and every available ambulance to the spot. A majority of the wounded were treated on the spot, and the white coated ambulance surgeons worked for an hour in the debris-strewn streets. Police lines were thrown at either end of Park avenue and across the intersecting streets.

The cause of the explosion and the quantity of explosives that blew up are not definitely known. Several causes have been advanced. One was that a fire started near the powder room. Another was that it started from a spark produced from a stray current of electricity. A third placed the blame upon a blast in the tunnel. Still another gave a gas explosion from electrical contact with the trolley conduit in the electrical subway. It will take an official examination to reveal the true explanation.

The damage may exceed \$1,000,000. The first estimate of the damage to the Murray Hill hotel places the loss at \$100,000, but later the hotel was abandoned as unsafe. If the building is condemned, the loss on it alone will approximate \$1,000,000.

IS BEST FOR THE CANAL.

Delay in Reporting Bill Saving of Time Later—Nicaragua is Most Favored.

Washington, Jan. 29.—An attempt is being made to make capital out of the delay in reporting the canal bill, but Senator Mitchell says that time will be saved in having every possible feature of opposition to Nicaragua developed in the committee, so that there can be no requests for further investigation, or further delay after the bill comes before the senate. Then it will simply be a question which is the best route, and while the matter may be discussed at length, debate cannot be drawn out, as it might be, should some senator hold that the committee had not gathered all the facts obtainable. Senator Hanna acknowledges that the committee is surely in favor of the Nicaragua bill, there being three majority against Panama, whenever the committee is ready to vote.

Dole Not Asked to Resign

Sam Parker, who was once prominent in Hawaiian affairs, a member of the Republican national committee from that territory, is stirring up more or less gossip about the governorship, and already several stories have been published that he is to succeed Dole. It was ascertained at the White House today that Dole's resignation had not yet been asked for, and the president has not decided to select Parker if he finds it necessary to make a change. He is considering the case, and it is possible after he obtains all the facts that Dole may be removed, and that Parker may be appointed, but some other man instead of Parker stands just as good a chance.

It is reported that General Miles and Admiral Dewey are to be sent to Europe as representatives of the St. Louis exposition, to arouse interest in the enterprise and secure foreign exhibits. Should this be done, both will first have to obtain permission from their respective departments.

American Invitations to Kruger.

London, Jan. 29.—The correspondent of the Daily Telegraph at Brussels says in a dispatch that Mr. Kruger has received fresh invitations from Chicago, New York and Philadelphia to visit those cities, and that he will probably start upon an American tour next April.

Fire at Montclair, N. J.

New York, Jan. 29.—Fire at Montclair, N. J., early today destroyed several buildings in the business section. Other buildings were badly damaged. Loss, \$95,000.

St. Athos Monastery Burned.

London, Jan. 29.—Telegraphing from Vienna, the correspondent of the Daily Chronicle says the newspapers of Athens report that the celebrated St. Paul monastery on Mount Athos, was burned two days ago. The prior and nine monks perished and 20 others were seriously injured. The occupants of the monastery were sleeping when the fire broke out, according to the Athens papers, and the monastery itself was damaged to the extent of \$400,000.

A CINCINNATI SENSATION.

Trusted Bookkeeper Short From \$160,000 to \$400,000 in His Accounts.

Cincinnati, Jan. 24.—Sensational reports were published here today of an alleged shortage in the books of Theodore Braemer, who resigned last Sunday as treasurer of the J. & F. Schroth Packing Company, of this city. The story as first published alleged a shortage of from \$160,000 to \$400,000, extending over a period of 20 years, and declared that Mr. Braemer had turned over all of his property and chattels in trust, pending an examination of the books by experts. Braemer denied that there was any defalcation, but admitted that he had turned over \$72,000 in personal property to Harland Cleveland, his attorney, and Joseph W. O'Hara, attorney for the J. & F. Schroth company. While Braemer talked freely about the case, the Schroths refused to say anything, and the attorneys were also reticent.

Braemer is about 45 years of age, and has been with the Schroths 25 years, most of the time receiving \$25 per week as bookkeeper, and in recent years about twice that much as secretary and treasurer. The firm did a business of about \$1,000,000 a year, which was collected by Braemer. When John Schroth died, over a year ago, Lieutenant Governor Carl Nippert became the attorney of his heirs, who instituted an investigation of the company, which finally culminated in a meeting of all interested parties last Sunday, at which Braemer resigned, and from which the sensational reports of today emanated. The experts insist that they cannot complete their work for two or three weeks, and counsel say that no reliable statement can be made until that time.

No reports of similar character ever created such a sensation in this city, as Mr. Braemer always has been regarded as a man of the highest business and social standing. He owns one of the finest residences in the city, and it is furnished with all that art could supply. In all of the sensational reports that have been published no reference is made to him as a fast man or of bad habits, such as are usually coupled with such sensations. The attorneys and other interested persons will give no assurance that the report of the experts on the examination of the books will be made public when completed, as they state that every possible difference has already been adjusted satisfactorily by the property that Braemer has turned over in trust. All the interested parties state that they expected after the meeting last Sunday, at which Braemer resigned, that all differences would be settled without the matter ever becoming public.

THEY WANT CHINESE.

Manila Merchants Object to Restriction Law—Need to Develop Islands.

Manila, Jan. 28.—The American chamber of commerce here has formulated an appeal to congress, in which it earnestly prays for the enactment of laws allowing Chinese to enter the Philippine islands under such restrictions as the United States Philippine commission may enact. The present restrictive law concerning immigration, continues the appeal, is of no benefit to the Filipinos. Chinese, if admitted, would enter into competition with local labor, and their entry into the islands is impratively needed as the tobacco, hemp and sugar lands of the archipelago are only partly cultivated. Without this legislation the country cannot be properly developed. Building in Manila has been badly retarded because of this lack of labor and for these reasons the American chamber of commerce, composed entirely of American citizens representing commercial interests, respectfully requests immediate action in the matter.

Boer Commando Captured.

London, Jan. 24.—Lord Kitchener, in a dispatch from Johannesburg, Transvaal colony, says General Mathuen overtook a Boer commando near Boschpoort, and after a running fight of eight miles, he captured all their wagons and cattle, and 24 Boers. General Bruce Hamilton made a night march against General Botha, near Wilbank, but the Boer commander had left the camp when the British reached the spot. The latter, however, captured 27 prisoners.

Spain May Have a Revolution.

London, Jan. 24.—The Daily Mail publishes an alarmist dispatch from Madrid giving the opinions of various prominent politicians concerning the gloomy outlook in Spain and their fears that the coronation of King Alfonso next May may be the signal for a revolution. In addition to the Carlist menaces, "Weyler, the Spanish brouhanger, is troubling the waters and playing for his own hand."

Caught by Falling Walls.

Mobile, Ala., Jan. 28.—Fire early today in the wholesale business district destroyed property to the value of at least \$300,000 and caused the death of two men and the serious injury of three others. The men were caught in falling walls.

Fire at Kalispel.

Kalispel, Mont., Jan. 24.—Fire started this morning in a restaurant and in a very short time had spread all over a block. An entire row of buildings was destroyed. The loss is figured at \$10,000.

Kaiser's Gift to Harvard.

Berlin, Jan. 24.—The gift of Emperor William to Harvard University will be much larger than was at first supposed. The Emperor's gift consists of casts and bronzes, illustrating every class of the German plastic arts from the Romanesque period to the Renaissance. The entire cost of the collection will be defrayed from the Emperor's private purse, and it is estimated at about 500,000 marks.

DANISH WEST INDIES

The Islands Will Soon Be a Part of the United States.

TREATY IS SIGNED BY BOTH MINISTERS

Only Awaits Ratification by the Danish Government—Price Is Supposed to Be About Five Millions.

Washington, Jan. 25.—The treaty of cession of the Danish West Indies from Denmark to the United States was signed at the state department yesterday by Secretary Hay and Constantin Brun, the Danish minister. The treaty will be submitted to the senate for ratification immediately.

Following the invariable rule in such cases the state department officials decline to make public any of the details of the treaty, so that it is not possible to state positively the price to be paid, though it is believed to be in the neighborhood of \$5,000,000. It is known also that Denmark has abandoned the position she was inclined to occupy toward the conservation of the political rights of the inhabitants of the islands and leaves to the United States a free hand to deal with them without pledge of American citizenship or of free trade privileges. So it is presumed that the status of the Danish West Indian Islands, politically and commercially, should the treaty be ratified, will be similar to that of Porto Rico. Having gained these points in the negotiations, the state department officials believe the treaty is certain to receive the approval of the United States senate.

The new treaty is peculiar in that it will require action not only by the senate and the Danish rigsdag, but by the United States house of representatives as well, since it will be necessary for the house to supply the needed appropriation to defray the expenses of purchase. It is regarded as a strong point by the framers of the treaty that the people of the Danish West Indies are to have a voice in this question of cession.

The treaty itself does not contain any reference to a plebiscite, but the Danish government has given notice that before it ratifies the treaty it will submit the question of cession to the people of the islands. Not much objection is expected here from these people, as the treaty is so framed that they are not called on to surrender their Danish allegiance, and they may remain Danes in fact and in name while enjoying whatever advantages, in a commercial way, may result from a transfer of the islands to the United States. The plebiscite will not be controlled in any case by the United States. It is stated distinctly that the Danish government itself will take steps to ascertain the inclination of the people of the islands before the final steps in the transfer are taken.

RECEIVED ON EQUAL TERMS.

Audience Granted by the Chinese Emperor to the Foreign Ministers.

Pekin, Jan. 25.—The ministers of the foreign powers here have attained the goal which has been their aim since intercourse between China and the powers began. They have been received as representatives of sovereigns equal in rank to the Chinese emperor. The audiences yesterday between the ministers and the emperor were held in the innermost large hall of the Forbidden City. The emperor sat upon a dias behind a table. There were four princes at the back of his chair, and a dozen officials on each side. The dowager empress was concealed by a screen, according to stories of the attendants, and remained invisible. The audience chamber was furnished ornately, in contrast to the dingy rooms which served for these audiences under the old regime. The secretaries translated the addresses of the ministers, copies of which were handed to the emperor. The replies were delivered by Prince Ching. The emperor was silent throughout the audience, and remained stolid and impassive. Formerly the emperor replied to the ministers in Manchu, and the prince interpreted what he said. Today he appeared as an automaton, and the secretaries of the foreign ministers, who were present, report that he looked weaker, less intellectual and milder than previous to the siege.

British Force Surrendered.

Pretoria, Jan. 24.—A party of 35 natives, escorted by 25 Imperial Yeomanry, were surprised recently by 150 Boers at Lindiquespruit. After a gallant resistance, in which six of the Boers and one of the British force were killed, the latter were forced to surrender. Four of the unarmed natives were shot in cold blood.

Accident Caused by Fog.

Omaha, Jan. 27.—W. L. Stewart, yard foreman, was killed and six others injured in a freight wreck in the Burlington yards in this city early today. The wreck was caused by a heavy fog.

Colombia Wants French Gunboats.

Paris, Jan. 27.—The government of Colombia has offered to purchase a number of obsolete French gunboats. The negotiations have thus far had no results.

ANOTHER LAND GRANT.

Asked in Aid of Railroad Across Alaska—Bills Now in Congress.

Washington, Jan. 23.—Now that the Trans-Alaskan Railway Company has a bill before both the senate and the house granting it a right of way for a railroad from Cook inlet across the peninsula, by way of Unalaklik and Eaton to Port Clarence, on the end of the Seward peninsula, it is working very vigorously to secure the passage of this measure. It is asking for a land grant similar to that extended to the severals-transcontinental roads in the United States.

The exact route proposed to be covered by this road has been surveyed by the company, and has been inspected by representatives of the geological survey. It starts on the western shore of Cook inlet, just north of Kanishak bay, leading westward from Iliamna lake past Kakwok, and northward across Tikchik lake to Kalmakof on the Kuskokwim, and northward to Holy Cross Mission and Anvik, on the Yukon, thence up Anvik river, and over Anvik portage to the head of Norton sound; thence by Nome to Port Clarence. The distance to Cook Inlet from St. Michael is approximately 400 miles. Kamishak bay is said to be open throughout the winter, and therefore affords a valuable terminal for the road and its steamship connections.

The company asserts that the main artery of commerce is closed by ice during the winter months, and that a railway from Cook Inlet to Behring sea is the only practicable method of opening up to settlement the western plains and river valleys of Alaska, and of furnishing means of transportation at all seasons of the year.

The snowfall along the proposed route is light, and a railroad, it is said, can be operated without interruption.

The company claims to be asking for this grant solely to aid in the construction of the road, in the hope of developing the agricultural resources of the interior and affording adequate transportation to the remote sections that are now practically cut off through the winter months. The company does not ask for any mineral rights, nor does it expect immediate returns from the lands. It appreciates that it will take years to bring to the people of the United States the knowledge that in Alaska can be had homesteads from which can be gathered the necessities of life.

ENGLAND'S TROUBLES.

Indignation Over the Execution of Boer Commandants Helps the Boer Cause.

London, Jan. 27.—The Daily News has from The Hague the following dispatch, taken from private advices:

"News from South Africa has reached military circles here that the power of the Boers over Cape Colony is increasing daily; that the rebellion is constantly spreading, and that the colonists are joining the Boers in steadily increasing numbers. The executions of Commandants Lotter and Scheepers have had the result of deciding the loyalists to join the Boers, whose position is persistently reported to be more favorable than ever."

The same private advices assert that the British suffered a dozen defeats from September to November, 1901, of which no mention is made in Lord Kitchener's reports.

The Daily News, commenting on this dispatch, confesses that its statements are probably exaggerated, but it is of the opinion that the denials of Mr. Balfour, the government leader in the house of commons, that there had been any Boer overtures for peace points to the fact that the Boers believe their position to be less desperate than is generally supposed.

AWAKENING OF CHINA.

Foreign Advisors May Reorganize the Government—Japan Taken as a Model.

Pekin, Jan. 27.—The dowager empress and her councillors are discussing the engagement of foreign advisers to reorganize the government. Yuan Shi Kai, viceroy of Pe Chi Li, inspired the movement. The scheme in its present form, after having been discussed by the members of the council, is to engage six foreigners as authorities, respectively, on international law and finance, military, naval, parliamentary, domestic and governmental affairs.

Yuan Shi Kai and his followers are hopeful of practical results. They are taking Japan as their model. Any attempt to institute a parliament of any sort would, however, meet with tremendous opposition from the Manchus.

Bill for Joint Statehood.

Washington, Jan. 23.—Representative Stevens, of Texas, today introduced a bill for the union of Oklahoma and Indian Territory as a state, to be known as the state of Oklahoma.

Kitchener's Weekly Report.

London, Jan. 23.—Lord Kitchener reports that since January 13 31 Boers were killed, 13 were wounded, 170 were made prisoners and 41 surrendered.

WEPT HIS WAY TO VICTORY.

Candidate Was Doped, but His Tears Were Eloquent.

"There are all sorts of tricks in a political campaign," said the ex-member of the Legislature, "and one was played upon me when I was doing my first stumping that was intended to lay me out flatter than a pancake. I was obliged to speak at a certain village, and I prepared a first-rate talk for the occasion. Half an hour before I was to take the platform I was invited to have a nip to brace me up, and ten minutes after imbibing I didn't know whether I was on foot or riding a camel. As a matter of fact, I had been 'doped' in order to prevent me from speaking. When I began to rail-fence around and talk nonsense they tried to take me away, but I became as stubborn as a mule and insisted upon speaking. It would be a tall in my coffin to show me off in a drunken condition, and I was finally pushed forward. I was simply conscious of the fact that I was making a fool of myself, and after uttering a dozen words I began to weep. There was a good deal of laughter at first, but pretty soon a man called out:

"Look here, fellows, this man ain't crying for nothing."

"You bet he ain't," shouted another.

"He must be weeping over our high taxes," suggested a third.

"That's it, and it shows his true feeling," added a fourth. Here's one who pledges himself to work and vote for him."

"And here's another," called out twenty men in chorus as I was led away with tears streaming down my cheeks.

"That was my speech," said the ex-candidate, according to the Detroit Free Press. "The people laid it all to emotion, and that town gave me a majority to make my hair stand up. I couldn't reduce their taxes, but I got a bill through against any one owning a bull without keeping an iron ring in his nose, and did not lose any of my admirers."

PICTURESQUE OLD WINDMILL NEAR BLOOMINGTON.



One of the most curious industrial plants in the West is the old Holland type of grist mill at Benson, near Bloomington, Ill. It was erected upward of thirty years ago, and is still doing business. It is operated by wind power, re-enforced by a small engine, which can be called into use whenever nature's agent fails in its adequacy. The tall circular building is surmounted by four huge wings, each of which is forty feet in length, or eighty in the length of each pair. The mill is sixty feet high and is quite attractive for artists who desire a picturesque bit of rural scenery.

SWITZERLAND'S NEW PRESIDENT.

Dr. Joseph Zemp, Head of the Mountain State's Government.

The Swiss Republic has a new President. His name is Dr. Joseph Zemp and he is regarded as a statesman of superior ability, who is well qualified to preside over the national council which initiates all legislation in the little mountain state. Dr. Zemp is 67 years old and is a native of Lucerne Province. A year ago he was elected Vice President and he steps into the higher office by virtue of the unwritten law that the Vice President shall succeed to the highest office, unless he has rendered himself obnoxious in the subordinate position. As Vice President he was head of the Department of State Railways and Telegraphs, where he was well tested in the art of government and acquitted himself creditably. He is a Conservative.



DR. ZEMP.

Quaint Southern Epitaph. A Charleston, S. C., churchyard contains the dust of many eminent men and several queer epitaphs. The epitaph of Charlotte Elford, who died on May 9, 1817, says that—

She was
In Childhood, Obedient,
In Wedlock, Virtuous,
In Prosperity, Humble,
In Adversity, Resigned,
In Sickness, Patient,
In Death, Happy.

Pharaohs in Mourning. The Pharaohs wore their beards when in mourning for a relative. Court mourning in Egypt seems to have lasted a year.

Fruit Trees in Georgia. The official entomologist of Georgia predicts that within a few years the Empire State of the South will contain more than 100,000,000 fruit trees.

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Spokane Flyer 6:15 p. m.	Walla Walla, Lewiston, Spokane, Minneapolis, St. Paul, Duluth, Milwaukee, Chicago and East.	7 a. m.
8 p. m.	OCEAN STEAMSHIPS All sailing dates subject to change. For San Francisco—Sail every 5 days.	4 p. m.
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