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Toilers of the Columbia

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CHAPTER VII.

Toilers of the Columbia.

"How is the storm?"

"Pretty high, father, but not so high as it was a week ago."

"I do not believe I can go today, my child."

"Well, father, I will try it alone. Dan Lapham fishes a trap alone, and I believe I can do so, too."

"Oh, no, my child. Dan is a strong young man. He has not an equal on the bay, and you are my frail little girl. I know you are willing and your strength at times seems to be supernatural, but you could not fish a trap alone. It is out of the question."

"But Dan's trap is near ours. You know he often helps me when you are tired and I would help him this morning in return for his services. You are not able to go, my father."

"But I will go," said the old man as he drew himself feebly from the bed.

"My child, this work is getting too severe for you. For more than a year you have had to pull at the oars and your task has grown greater until your strength is over-taxed. Day by day I grow more feeble and day by day the burden is increased upon your shoulders. If I could only complete the link that still is missing I would place you where you could continue your studies and the old man that I am would spend his few remaining days in comfort as your ward. I know, Sankala, that you would not begrudge me so small an amount if it were yours."

"No, father, it should all be yours. I have only one desire, and that is to place you where you shall have rest. You need rest, father, you need rest. No one nearly so old as you toils on the Columbia, and yet you go day after day, and often when you are too feeble even to stir. Listen, the storm rages this morning! You should not go at all."

Thus spoke Sankala to Ringwold. Another year had passed in their lives. The price of fish had gone down under the hard times and close competition and Ringwold had for many months been unable to make a support for the two alone. In fact, he had struggled beyond his strength to keep Sankala in school and the crash was close at hand. He was now giving out his last strength. Often he would become completely exhausted and lie for a time in the bow of the fishing boat while the girl worked on alone. It was on these occasions that good-hearted Dan Lapham had come to their rescue and assisted poor Sankala to do her work.

She had become hardened to the work, however, and frail as she was she could handle a boat and draw in the web of the fish trap with the skill of the average man. It was not her strength that did it, however. It was her will power and a nimble, quick motion of an expert nature that women possess over men.

Twice this morning had Rinwgold fainted while Sankala was assisting him to dress and she had revived him and carried on the work. The child was accustomed to this and did not realize how serious was the condition of the old man.

When the fishermen reached the beach the waves were coming in with a rush. They threw the drift wood further back with each pulsation. Out in the darkness through the mist and the rain the white caps could be seen leaping about like the salmon they were pursuing. The strongest fisherman paused this morning. They were often compelled to remain ashore until late and even over-day. But this was always a disappointment. The fish ran better when there was a storm and the hard times now urged the toilers on their duty.

While the men were thus pausing from indecision Ringwold and Sankala appeared. Without seeming to notice the disturbed condition of the bay they shoved their boat into the water and while Ringwold steered Sankala threw her oars against the seething current. They gradually mingled with the dark phantoms which danced upon the sea until they were lost from view.

The fishermen had become so accustomed to the dangers of their life that they thought but little about it. What to the stranger would have appeared foolhardy was to them duty and choice. But the storm this morning was unusually high and that intuition akin to the instinct that protects animals from destruction, warned the fishermen to be cautious.

But when Sankala braved the waters with her aged companion the most daring of the fishermen followed. Dan Lapham, smarting under his former timidity, was first seen to shoot out in his boat in pursuit of the two who worked a trap near his own. Then one by one the others followed.

The fish traps were constructed along the entire north shore of the river, which is Baker's bay, from Cape Disappointment to McGowan's Point, a distance of a dozen miles or more. The middle of the river was the dividing line. The river is the dividing line between the two states and the fishermen from the two states claim their rights, even to a hair's breadth.

The fishermen on the north had traps while those on the south had nets. The cannerymen on the south side of the river owned most of the nets and old Seadog owned most of the traps on the north. The fishermen were employed by the day on the nets and given so much for each fish captured. The trappers were employed by the day or worked the traps on shares. All the fishermen used row boats peculiar for their work. Save with rare exceptions the boats were manned by two, both at the nets and the traps. One was called the puller and the other the fisherman. While the latter tended his nets or traps the puller guided the boat to suit the work.

The nets were known as gill nets. These were stretched out their full length in the water, which was many feet and even yards. Floaters were placed along the top of the net at proper distances to hold it in position while sinkers carried the bottom of the net deep into the water. The meshes of the net were of such size as would permit the entrance of the averge fishes head. When once it entered the meshes the gills were fastened and the fish held prisoner until removed by the fishermen.

The traps, one of which Ringwold and Sankala tended, were constructed differently. A large figure was formed in the shallow water by the driving of piles. It represented a heart and on either side extended long wings. The wings enclosed a semi-circle facing the ocean and immediately in the rear of where they come together was the large heart. A netting, called web, was stretched along the piles from the surface of the water to the bottom of the bay. By this means a perfect heart with wings was perfected.

The valve of the heart opened immediately at the conjunction of the wings. This was at the sharp point of the "V" which is formed at the top of the heart.

As a trap for fish it is a success. The salmon come up from the ocean and enter the mouth of the river fresh and strong. They run in great schools and follow the shallow channels laying their spawn as they go farther up the stream.

When the noses of the fish strike the web forming the wings of the heart, they follow the wings to the center. Here they find their way through the opening into the heart. When once into the heart their capture is complete. They circle about the place passing the same apex of the heart through which they entered without ever discovering it as a means of escape, and are thus held as captives until the fishermen take them into their boats.

They sometimes enter these traps by the hundreds within 24 hours. They range in weight from five to 20 pounds and larger.

It was such a trap as this that Sankala and Ringwold tended for old Seadog at wages barely sufficient to sustain them at best.

CHAPTER VIII.

A Morning of Disaster.

"Hello, Captain!"

"Hello, lookout!"

"The sea is high and the fishermen are venturing out."

"All right, I will send out the men."

Cape Disappointment life saving station nestled beneath the rocks of the cliffs that extended far out over the sea.

Many a mariner had met disappointment here. For from the sea the spot looked like a place of refuge from the storm. But he who dared to trust it had often been dashed to death against its walls.

Shaken and addled, as it were, while crossing the river bar, the mightiest rovers of the deep had been broken up here like glass upon the rocks.

It was the treachery of its appearance that gave name to the place. It was the great loss of life that had caused the government to establish a life saving station at the foot of the cliffs.

But the life savers had a double duty to perform. The purpose for which they were originally placed there was insignificant to the duty that later developed. They were provided by the government to watch incoming vessels and save the lives of ship wrecked seamen and travelers on the deep, but later it was found that a hundred calls came from those whose lives were spent on the river to where one came from those who lived on the sea.

Like guardians of children the life savers stood upon watch and as the fishermen came and so were they on duty.

From the early hours of morning until nearly noon, and from early afternoon until late in the evening the fishermen dotted the river in their tiny boats and struggled with their nets verging on the very danger line where ocean and river met. Once across this line and the frail craft of the fisherman was at the mercy of the undertow and many a toiler was dragged to his death ere the government protectors of life could reach the spot in boats prepared for the purpose.

The lighthouse stood upon the highest point of the cape overlooking the sea. Beneath its shadow stood a small structure barely large enough inside for one man to stand, turn about and sit down. It was built of glass save that its framework and roof was made of iron. The glass was thick and almost as strong as iron for it required strength to withstand the terrible storms that beat upon it from the sea.

Its furnishings were a small stove, a stool, a pair of strong glasses and a telephone. It was occupied night and day by one man at a time. One was on watch from noon until midnight and the other from midnight until noon. Not even a light was allowed for it was not needed by day and by night it would blind the watch so that he could not look out upon the ocean and river.

Throughout the day he peered out through his glasses over the sea and river and bay. At night he followed the great revolving light in the lighthouse above his head and watched for objects on the water while he looked further out for the smaller lights of vessels.

It was on the morning that Sankala and Ringwold had put forth into the storm that the conversation took place over the telephone between the lookout and the captain of the life saving crew recorded at the beginning of this chapter.

The lookout had seen the small craft battling with the surf on the bosom of the bay in the dim light shot out from overhead. He could feel the storm blowing against the structure which enclosed him; besides the register showed a high velocity of wind.

It foreboded a day of hard work. Fishermen would venture forth in dangerous storms and this compelled the life savers to stand on constant guard. They would enter their boats and beat along the danger line like sentinels to keep the fishermen from rowing to their death. And in spite of this precaution scores find watery graves at the mouth of the Columbia every year.

As the fishermen fought their way out on this stormy morning the life savers shot out from under the cliffs toward the bar. Here bordering on the danger line themselves they patrolled the river to rescue those less capable than themselves to withstand the receding tide.

"Hello, captain!"

"Hello, lookout!"

"Signal distress off west end of Jetty Sand Spit. A boat is heading for the breakers!"

"Bing, bing, bing!" went three guns.

"Hello, captain!"

"Hello, lookout!"

"Signal distress off Pacific rocks. Boat seems to be capsized and men clinging to upturned hull!"

"Bing, bing!" went two guns.

After a few minuutes pause the captain's 'phone rang again

"Hello, captain!"

"Hello, lookout!"

"Signal distress off Disappointment rocks! Boat shoving for breakers like a rocket! Girl at the oars; is powerless—think it is Sankala, the old chemist's daughter."

"Bing, bing, bing, bing, bing!" rang out five shots from the cliffs below. This was the most dangerous point at the mouth of the river and was called the hell gap, for it was here that so many fishermen had lost their lives.

The swift receding current formed a sort of maelstrom at the point of the rocks and when once fairly in its clutches boats were swept like chaff into the breakers and disappeared like shot thrown into the water.

The life savers knew the signals as well as their alphabet and rushed to the rescue like firemen to the call of fire. And when the signal came for Disappointment rocks the sturdy boys lying off that point bent to their oars with all their might.

The life savers were divided up into crews and each of these divisions covered given points. The men selected for the most dangerous places were the most experienced and dared the elements as veteran soldiers face the death line in battle.

While the rescuers were hurrying to the calls of distress the captain had ascended to the lookout's station. Day was already dawning and while signals were given at night by the discharge of firearms, they were given in day time with flags from lookout point.

With the advancing day the river and bay presented a busy appearance. A speck here to the natural eye was revealed through the strong glasses to be a fisherman's boat struggling with the nets or waves. Some were going, some were coming. Each was oblivious of the other. One was dashing to its ruin at another point and life savers were going to its rescue, while the men in danger were often unconscious of the fact.

But in the work which was so common as to bring no excitement to the veteran captain of the crew he surveyed the waters as a general does his battlefield.

This morning, however, a change came over his face. He saw a frail fisherman's boat being swept toward Disappointment rocks. Standing up working her useless oars with all her strength was Sankala. The glasses revealed her firm features and while she looked into the jaws of death she was as calm as the rocks which awaited her approach. Ringwold lay motionless in the boat. Whether dead or asleep the glasses did not disclose. It was evident that they had never reached the fish trap for the boat was as empty as it had been when they had first started out.

The captain raised the signal flag high above his head and waved it five times in succession. But here the life boat which was giving Sankala's boat a stern chase, passed behind some rocks that had just hidden her and several seconds must pass before they would appear again.

(To be continued)

An Angry Landlady.

Boarder No. 1—What's that loud thumping noise in the kitchen?

Boarder No. 2—It's the landlady hammering the steak and wishing it was the beef trust.—Chicago Tribune.

Mayor McClellan asserts that he would prefer to be Mayor of Greater New York than Governor of the Empire State.

WEEK'S DOINGS

Newsy Items Gathered from All Parts of the World.

OF INTEREST TO OUR READERS

General Review of Important Happenenigs Presented in a Brief and Condensed Form.

In a clash between Greeks and Bulgarians, 20 of the latter were killed.

Gordon, Ala., has been destroyed by fire and 40 inhabitants are destitute.

Revolutionists are active in Russia. Police authorities declare the Hebrews are most at fault.

Coos bay people are excited over a conference at Marshfield of a number of prominent railroad men.

Bransford, a small village in Tennessee on the Chesapeake & Nashville railroad, was entirely destroyed by fire.

The city of Portland may have to lower its water mains across the Willamette river in order to allow of a deeper channel to be dredged.

A shipbuilding race between the New York and Mare Island navy yards has begun over the construction of two colliers authorized by the last congress. They are to be the largest and fastest boats of their class in the world.

Military operations in Manchuria are awaiting the drying of the roads and plains rendered impassable for artillery and even for infantry by the recent heavy rains. Only disultory cannonding and unimportant skirmishes are occurring.

Fire destroyed several business houses in Oakwood, Texas. Loss, $75,000.

A resolution disapproving of reciprocity with Canada was adopted in the Vermont house without opposition.

Intense fog and terrible condition of the roads have put a stonp to all movements of the two armies south of Mukden.

Dr. Atkinson, who organized the school system in the Philippines, declares the natives are not capable of self government.

There are rumors of Colombian troops gathering near Culebra with the intention of making an attack there on Noven ber 3, the first anniversary of the secession of Panama from Colombia.

The British army council has issued an order which, instead of enlisting three years with the colors and nine in the reserve, infantry of the line will in the future enlist for nine years with the colors and three in the reserve.

For the first time in the history of the money order system, the number issued during the last fiscal year reached 50,000,000. The value of the domestic orders issued was $378,778,488 and the internatoinal money orders issued were valued at$ 42,550,15).

Russia resents peace talk and regards it as a most inopportune time to broach it.

China's opposition to the treaty of Great Britain with Thibet may upset British calculations.

General Kuropatkin has abandoned his headquarters at Mukden, remaining with the troops in the field.

Since the fighting began south of Mukden the Russian losses have never been less than 2,000 per day.

Troops and bandits engaged in a battle near Mexico City. Three men were killed and a number wounded.

Fire destroyed the works of the Anchor Rubber Tire company, at Setacket, L. I. Loss, $200,000.

A dispatch from Shanghai says that it is reported the Japanese shells have sunk the Russian cruiser Bayan in the harbor at Port Arthur.

The jury in the case of Philip Weinseimer, on trial in New York for accepting a bribe to settle strikes, returned a verdict of guilty.

A general falling off from the attendance of last year is shown by the official enrollment figures at Harvard university. The authorities attribute the decrease to some extent to the increasing rivalry of Western colleges.

Fire destroyed a large raisin plant near Fresno, burning 200 tons of seeded raisins.

English war experts agree that the temporary success of the Russians can have little effect in the end.

A treaty of peace has been signed between Chile and Bolivia.

Russia still realizes that the position of her Manchurian army is critical.

According to a Japanese official the Russian forces engaged in the battle south of Mukden consisted of about 200,000 infantry, 26,000 cavalry and 950 guns.

J. E. Bennett, of Portland, has submitted the lowest bid for the construction of the government buildings at the 1905 fair and he is likely to be awarded the contract.

Hunters are reported to have killed a number of elk in the mountins of the eastern part of Linn county, Oregon. The game warden is investigating.

A field party sent out by the reclamation service to investigate the possibility of diverting the waters of the John Day river to the Umatilla lands in Eastern Oregon, says it is too costly. A rough estimate places the expense at $1,600,000 for a canal.

Prominent Oregon men are likely to be indicted for land frauds.

STIR UP PANAMA.

American Canal Commissioners Anger Republic.

New York, Oct. 22.—A World special from Washington says:

"Matters have reached a point where a strong hand is required to prevent not only open rupture with Panama but scandal in connection with the canal commission. During its short stay on the isthmus members of the commission developed a feud among themselves, while they were involving the administration in trouble with Panama and the result will be that two or more of the commissioners will be asked to step out as quietly as possible after the election.

"One of the two chief reasons for sending Secretary Taft to the isthmus clothed with plenary powers is that he may fully investigate the conduct of all the commissioners and decide which ones shall be removed. The immediate impelling reason for his trip is to restore friendly relations with Panama. The president and Secretary Taft have known all along of the friction between the commission and Panama and between the commission and Mr. Barrett, but it was not until Mr. Barrett submitted his report on isthmian affairs that there was any suspicion that some of the commissioners had been violating the president's orders. At the same time, it was revealed by Mr. Barrett's report that the isthmians are on the verge of open revolt, with resort to arms, against what they regard as the high-handed and unwarranted actions of the canal commission in direct violation of the canal treaty, both in letter and spirit.

"The president was astounded at the startling news brought by Mr. Barrett. He sent for William N. Cromwell, counsel for Panama. It was demonstrated by Cromwell that the methods employed by Admiral Walker and General Davis only served to anger the people of Panama. The extent to which those commissioners, who are slated for removal, have offended is not divulged, but it is charged that some of them have secretly conveyed information of great value regarding prosective contracts to favored firms."

LABOR IS SCARCE.

Louisiana Planters are Trying to Secure Foreigners.

New Orleans, Oct. 21.—A great scarcity of labor exists in Louisiana, and the effect is being felt not only on the plantations, but also on the extensive levee work now in progress. Forty-nine state and district contracts outside of the work being done by the federal government are under way. They cover many miles of new levee and repair work. Most of these contracts are required to be finished by January 1, but the contractors are unable to obtain laborers. Agents of the contractors are in the city seeking hands.

There are also representatives of planting interests here today to meet the incoming steamer Liguria with over 1,500 Italian immigrants. None of these laborers are contracted for, and the agents of the planters have come to make terms with them as soon as they leave the ship. Country negroes continue to gravitate to the city, and that is given as one of the causes for the scarcity of labor.

LOST 50,000 MEN.

Japanese Have Suffered Terribly at Port Arthur.

Chicago, Oct. 22.—A special to the Daily News from Chefoo says:

According to a camp-follower, who has been for some time with the Japanese army now besieging Port Arthur, and who is at present in Chefoo, having arrived from Dalny, the number of Japanese killed before the forts has reached 50,000. He says the mikado's men recklessly attacked the strongest positions, making bold rushes in masses, the soldiers being stripped of their accoutrements and clothing. The result was that the Russian machine guns mowed them down.

He also asserts there is some talk among the officers and men that leads to the belief that the Japanese mean to try to carry the inner forts and citadel this month.

Supplies From Bay City.

San Francisco, Oct. 22.—Quartermaster Major Devol has received instructions from Washington that hereafter San Francisco will be the point from which all western posts will receive their supplies. According to the orders sent out by the department, all depots in the western third of the United States are to be abolished and the 15,000 troops now located in Western United States, Alaska and the Philippines are to be cared for by one station in this city. Supplies will be kept sufficient to last a year.

British Troops Snowbound.

Pari Jong, Oct. 22.—The headquarters of the British Thibetan force, consisting of two companies of mounted infantry, is snowbound at Pari, a fortress near Boutan, Thibet. The command marched through Pari Jong Pass in the midst of a blinding snow storm, during which it went into camp. Two men died during the night. The snow is drifting and the road has been obliterated, which may compel the force to remain.

Red Cross to Give ASsistance.

Berlin, Oct. 22.—As a result of the visit here of a delegate of the Russian Red Cross Central committee, the German Red Cross society has decided to send further assistance to the seat of war, and will erect a German hospital at Irkutks, Siberia, and will provide it with military ambulance trains. Negotiations are in progress regarding a similar offer to Japan.

ISTHMUS NEWS

Malcontents Threaten Trouble at Panama.

MAY LEAD TO A REVOLUTION

American Authorities Send Marines to Learn Purpose of Movement —Washington not Informed.

Colon, Colombia, Oct. 24.—News reached here this evening that about 200 armed men, who are thought to be malcontent Panamans, rather than Colombian soldiers, have been seen in the neighborhood of Culebra, threatening hostilities against the Panama government.

As soon as the American authorities of the canal zone became cognizant of this force, marines were sent out to ascertain their purpose. It is rumored that a skirmish occurred inland, in which several were killed, but there is no confirmation of this report.

Navy Department Not Advised.

Washington, Oct. 24. — Assistant Secretary Darling tonight said that, so far as he was aware, no advices had been received at the navy department of the reported skirmish between United States marines and Panamans on the isthmus. If any dispatches have been received, the assistant secretary added, they in all probability would be sent to the department, and would not be delivered to the officials until morning. At this time the navy has about 450 marines on the isthmus, a sufficient force, in the opinion of the administration, to cope with any difficulty which is likely to develop.

OFFICERS ARE SHOT.

Desperate Battle With Men Suspected of Hold Up.

St. Louis, Oct. 24.—Two city detectives are dead and another is not expected to live during the night, while one train robber suspect is at the morgue and two others are in the hospital, one probably fatally wounded and the other badly beaten up, as the result of a desperate battle between five officers and three men whom they tried to arrest.

The fight occurred in the front room of a house on Pine street, and the men whom the detectives sought to arrest are suspected of being implicated in a train robbery at Centralia, Ill, a few weeks ago.

The house had been under police surveillance for several days, but today was the first time that any of the suspects was seen to enter or leave.

A few minutes before the fighting occurred Vaughn left the house and started to walk down Pine street. The detectives closed in on him, and after he had gone some distance from the house he was arrested.

Accompanied by their prisoner, the detectives returned and entered the house. Sha, McClusky and Dwyer were leading, Boyle and James were behind with the prisoner. Hardly had the detectives entered the room in which Rose and Blair were seated than they were met with a volley of shots from a heavy caliber gun. Shea sank to the floor and Dwyer followed almost immediately.

TRANSMITS PROTEST TO JAPAN.

America Calls Attention to Alleged Use of Chinese Clothing.

Washington, Oct. 24.—As indicated in the Tokio dispatches, the Japanese government, through Minister Takahiri here, has entered a formal protest against the use of certain bodies of Russian troops of Chinese clothing, the offending troops being specified in the complaint. The state department, having assumed the care of Japanese interests, has transmitted the Japanese protest to Spencer Eddy, secretary of the American embassy at St. Petersburg, and charge in the absence of Ambassador McCormick, for presentation to the Russian government.

It is understood here that the Chinese clothing was not used by the Russian troops to deceive the enemy, but simply to make good the failure of the Russian quaratermaster's department to supply much needed warm clothing upon the sudden advent of cold weather in Manchuria.

Three Months for the Trip.

Berlin, Oct 24.—A dispatch from the Tageblatt's correspondent at Kiel says he learns from the Russian fleet the plans of the future movements of the vessels. They will, he adds, proceed separately to the island of Madeira, where they will coal. The battleships and large cruisers will then start for the Far East by way of the Cape of Good Hope, and the smaller vessels will go by way of the Suez canal. The fleet will reassemble at the Sunda islands (Malay Archipelago), and thence the fleet will go to Vladivostok.

Seattle Is Paralyzed.

Seattle, Oct. 24.—Seattle shipping circles and supply houses are paralyzed at the announcement from Washington, D. C., to the effect that all army depots in the Western third of the United States, except at San Francisco, are to be closed. This means that what little share of the Alaska and Philippine Island business of the government which this city has enjoyed for the past two years is to be taken away and given to San Francisco merchants.

To Send Medicine.

Rome, Oct. 24.—At the request of the Russian Red Cross society, nurses and a supply of medicine, bandages and fruits will be sent to Manchuria by the Red Cross society of Italy.

JOY IN RUSSIA.

Army Is Said to Have Assumed the Offensive.

St. Petersburg, Oct. 20.—There is jubilation throughout the city over the news that General Kuropatkin has resumed the offensive, and the holiday which began with little heart closed brighter. The crowds in the streets and the illuminations in honor of the czarevitch's nameday gave a tinge of brilliancy to an evening otherwise depressing, through a constant drizzle of rain. Newsboys up to midnight raced through the thoroughfares with evening extras, shouting "Great Russian victory," and the crowds bought the papers greedily. Groups of men in brilliant uniforms, or in evening dress at the hotels and restaurants, discussed the change in the fortunes of war, but, as a whole, the population was slow to take fire. News of the earlier reverses had been received stolidly, and the reports of Russian successes and the capture of guns were quietly accepted with satisfaction, but with considerable reserve.

The emperor marked the day by appointing his youthful heir chief of the cadet corps, and by a ukase pensioning the survivors, widows and orphans of the Turkish-Russian war and promoting all the retired captains of the Turkish-Russian war to the rank of lieutenants colonel.

Japanese Retreat Cut Off.

Mukden, Oct. 20.—It is reported that the Russian army is advancing. Rain is hindering everything. The rivers are bankfull and the fords are impassable. There are no bridges. Supplies of all sorts are delayed. News has just been recieved that the Japanese left flank has been driven back with heavy loss and its retreat cut off. A Russian regiment is now being hurried to the scene in the hope of completing the rout. There was fighting today on both sides of the great Mandarin road.

THOUSANDS MAY BE LOST.

Emigrant Ship With 2,200 People Reported to Have Gone Down.

London, Oct. 20. — The Standard prints a dispatch from Vienna in this morning's issue, stating a rumor is prevalent at Fiume, on the Adriatic coast, that a Cunard liner with 2,200 emigrants on board, which left that city last week, has sunk off the Spanish coast in a storm.

Considerable excitement has been created here by the report, although it is believed if such a calamity had occurred, London or Liverpool would have received news of it from a point nearer the alleged scene of the disaster than Fiume.

Telegraphic inquiry made at Liverpool, where the Cunard line has its British offices, elicited no further news. One of the officials declared he had received no such report, and as far as he knew, none of his colleagues was in possession of more information than was given to the world by the Standard. The Standard is a reliable paper. It prints the rumor without commenting on it, simply giving it for what it is worth.

MINERS' STRIKE ENDED.

Colorado Men Looking for Situations Wherever They Can Get Them.

Denver, Oct. 20.—The strike of coal miners of district No. 15, United Mineworkers of America, which has been on for a year, has been practically closed up, according to a dispatch to the News from Trinidad, Colo.

The commissaries are closed, most of the tents have been taken down and the men are looking for situations wherever they can get them. All the men who were on strike up to October 12 are given union clearance cards.

It is understood that those of the strikers who desire transportation to other fields will be so provided.

William Howells and John Simpson, president and secretary, respectively, of district 15, will not be candidates for re-election for their respective offices at the Mineworkers' election, which occurs by referendum vote during this month. Robert Smith seems to be in the lead for president and Harry Douthwaite for secretary.

Transfer of Alaska Commemorated.

St. Louis, Oct. 20.—In commemoration of the 37th anniversary of the transfer of the territory of Alaska to the United States, Alaska day at the world's fair was observed today. One of the features of the ceremony was the unveiling in the Alaska pavilion of a bust of William Henry Seward, secretary of state, when the purchase was made. The presentation speech was made by Francis Lemoine Loring, of New York city, to which Governor John G. Brady, of Alaska, responded. Addresses were made by several.

Withdrawn From Entry.

Butte, Oct. 20.—A Miner special from Great Falls says: The local land office today received instruction to withdraw from all forms of entry 276,480 acres of land, in conneciton with the Milk river irrigation project. Part of the tract withdrawn lies northwest of Havre, extending irregularly from the line of the Great Northern to the international boundary, comprising part of the chain of lakes, reservoir sites and lands along Milk river.

Coal Mine to Close.

Pittsburg, Pa., Oct. 20.—The directors of the Allegheny Coal company have decided to suspend operations indefinitely at their Harwick mines next Saturday. This will almost depoplate a village of 1,000 people.