

## THEORY OF A PLOT

INVESTIGATION BEING MADE OF THE  
FIRE ON THE MEADE

### Transport was Ready to Sail

FLAMES BREAK OUT WHILE BOAT  
LIES AT HER DOCK

Number Injured, Among Them the Captain of the Steamer.—Heroism Is Displayed by the Firemen and the Sailors

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal.—Three men were killed and fifty-eight injured, mostly by suffocation, in a fire that raged on United States transport Meade as she lay at the Folsom street dock. For three hours after midnight the forward half of the big troop ship was a roaring furnace, from which firemen were borne in an almost continuous stream. Relays of men promptly stepped forward to take the place of those who were carried out unconscious. Tons of high explosives were loaded in the afterpart of the vessel, and the fireman worked with the possibilities ever before him that the flames would reach this compartment. Had this occurred the whole city would probably have been shaken by a terrific explosion and no man aboard the ship would have escaped.

Owing, probably, to the fact that an infernal machine was found in the bunkers of the transport Thomas on her voyage, the rumor was circulated that a plot had been laid to fire the Meade at sea, as she was to have departed for Manila. Major C. A. Devo, chief of the transport service, is investigating the theory with great care. He is having the cargo taken from compartment No. 2, where the fire started, with a view to discovering the real cause of the disaster. The flames did not spread from compartment No. 2.

Dock Captain Dun gave it as his opinion that some of the officers had packed matches in their trunks, and that these were ignited in loading. It is impossible to estimate the loss sustained by the different officers. Over a thousand pieces of baggage were ruined. Trunks, boxes and barrels were water-soaked or consumed in the flames. Wearing apparel and household furnishings were ruined and until an exact inventory is made the amount of the loss will not be known.

The surprising fact developed that the property loss amounted to only twenty-five dollars. This was the estimate made by Major Devo. When the water had been pumped from the hold and the debris removed it was discovered that the fire had been confined to a space about six feet square. There was very little flames, the fire being of a smoldering variety that emitted great volumes of smoke. There were fears that some of the officers' effects had been destroyed, but investigation showed these goods to be safe.

It is believed by some of the officials that the fire was due to spontaneous combustion of gun oil and cotton. Rifles were in the vicinity of the fire and it is thought that after cleaning the weapons the men had carelessly tossed the oil-soaked waste into a heap. A board of inquiry has been appointed to make an investigation. It consists of Captain W. L. Simpson, quartermaster department, Captain A. E. Williams, second infantry and Lieutenant Campbell, fourth infantry.

The Meade will sail soon for the Orient.

A rumor that the fire might have been the result of a plot to blow up the Meade has found no confirmation.

The fact that the vessel was on fire was first discovered by a painter on the main deck. He rushed to Master-at-Arms Morris, who gave the alarm and aroused Sailing Master Wilson. Alarms were then hurriedly turned in from the boxes in the vicinity.

Deeds of thrilling heroism marked the fire. Capt. George Wilson of the Meade fell down a hatchway and lay crippled and unconscious with an injured shoulder.

Chief Operator Lassak and others of the crew threw themselves down into the hold and managed to struggle back out of the pit of death bearing Wilson, who was removed to a berth out of reach of the flames and there attended to.

## SEA WOLF DROWNS

ALEXANDER McLEAN AND HIS CREW  
PERISH

### Near Wreck of the Valencia

ANOTHER VESSEL IS REPORTED TO  
BE IN DISTRESS

McLean Was Original of Jack London's  
Character of Larsen in His Novel,  
"The Sea Wolf."

VICTORIA, B. C.—A telegram from Bamfield says that the halibut fishing schooner Ella G. has turned turtle and six men on board were drowned. Among them was Alexander McLean, who was commander of the illegal sealing vessel Carmencita.

Captain Alexander McLean, who was interested in the ownership of the vessel, was a sealer who had become notorious as a result of sealing raids and a recent illicit sealing cruise to Bering sea in the schooner Carmencita.

Jack London the novelist, stated that McLean was the foundation for the character of Larsen, "The Sea Wolf" of his novel of that name; and he has since been known on the Pacific coast as "the sea wolf."

"With a brother, Dan McLean, who died some years ago, he engaged in sealing on the Pacific coast for many years, and on one occasion was seized by the Russian cruiser Aleut when sealing off the Copper islands with the American schooner James Hamilton Lewis, and he then most daringly tried to disable the cruiser by throwing a cable about her propeller. The attempt did not succeed and he and his crew were imprisoned. He was responsible for a number of sealing raids, the last being in August of 1904, when he tried to raid Copper island and was driven off by shore guards, two of his men being shot. It was in consequence of this that the United States secret service men started to work, and orders were given for McLean's arrest when he was absent on his voyage last year with a crew of thirty-one men from San Francisco. The owners at San Francisco were indicted and are now on bail, and a warrant was issued for McLean, which was never served.

A big barque believed to be the Admiral Courbet is in distress off Vancouver island coast near Carmanah. The lighthouse keeper reported at 5 o'clock p. m. that the barque was within a mile of shore with a big swell setting in. Tugs have been dispatched to her aid. The weather is calm, but the heavy swell is carrying the barque ashore.

The barque was in sight all of one day and just after sundown drifted around a point and out of sight. It is not known if she went on the rocks or is anchored. She was in a dangerous position. The steamer Salvor has gone to the assistance of the barque.

The body of Fred Erickson of Oelwein, Ia., a victim of the Valencia disaster has been found a mile east of Cape Beale. His purse contained \$90. He had an identification card in his pocket.

F. D. Bunker, assistant superintendent of schools of Seattle, who has been at the Valencia wreck to search for the bodies of his wife and children, severely condemns the life preservers on the steamer. He says he tested one of them and it sank after being placed in the water.

Organized parties are making every effort to secure all the bodies of victims of the Valencia disaster that can be found. Nineteen were recovered in one day and with a calmer sea attempts were made to land near the scene of the wreck and take bodies on tugs, it being impossible to take the corpses over the difficult trails.

With the three unidentified bodies found by him Lineman Logan has eight corpses in all, which are being taken to a small bay, and he expects to have them taken off by the tug Lorne.

#### Robbers Raid a Town

YOUNGSTOWN, O.—Five armed men terrorized the village of East Youngstown shooting two men and terribly beating a third. The robbers made a raid on a saloon operated by Michael and Alexander Dyokivio, brothers, and with revolvers drawn, ordered them to give up their money. They showed resistance and each robber shot at them.

## JOHN BULL GETS WRATHY

INCIDENT IN THE JAPANESE DIET  
REGARDED AS INSULT

Command of Military in Philippines  
Surrendered by General Corbin  
to General Wood—News  
of Old World

LONDON.—The cablegram from Tokio announcing that the leader of the progressist party of Japan inter-polated the minister of war as to whether the Japanese government, in view of the Anglo-Japanese alliance, intended to urge upon the British government the reform of its army organization, to which the minister replied that his government would do so at some future date, is likely to cause a sensation throughout Great Britain. For the moment most of the papers refrain from comment under the idea that a wrong impression might have been conveyed through a close telegraphic summary or by a telegraphic error.

The Daily Mail says it is reluctant to believe that the common rules of international courtesy have been intentionally disregarded. It expressed the belief that the result in diplomatic correspondence.

The Daily News in an editorial says that "it is not an agreeable pill for proud people to swallow," and points with dramatic emphasis to the extraordinary story of the last twenty years since the Gilbert and Sullivan opera of "The Mikado," represented "our notions of Japan."

The paper adds that "if this miracle happened in twenty years what may not happen in fifty years?"

#### Corbin Gives Over Command

MANILA.—Major General Corbin relinquished command of the military division of the Philippines to Major General Wood and sailed for Hong Kong accompanied by his personal staff. The transfer of command was made with impressive ceremony at Fort Santiago. Army and navy officials, clergy and business men and others from civil life were present. For the first time in the change of commanders there was no parade of the troops.

In giving over the Command to General Wood General Corbin said: "It has been my aim to make the army here an honor to the country and a credit to the military service."

Coming here I placed myself in touch with Governor General Wright and he met me in the same spirit in which I approached him. As a result there has been a total disappearance of the last vestige of friction and jealousy between the military and civil governments."

Major General Wood and Governor De made brief speeches expressing the unusual regret over General Corbin's departure. All classes of business men declare that General Corbin has done more to aid commerce than any previous commander. There was a popular demonstration when General Corbin embarked.

General Wood has announced that he will continue General Corbin's policy.

#### Back With His Lady Love

BIARRITZ, France.—King Alfonso returned to Biarritz. After discharging all the automobiles and carriages belonging to him and his suite, with the object of misleading the newspaper reporters, he left the Villa Mourasot at 11:30 with Princess Ena, the Princess Henry and Prince Alexander on foot for a view of the coast scenery. The party returned through the town, where each of its members was respectfully saluted. The king stopped at the store of jeweler where he bought presents for his friends. Then, as the crowd following them increased, the members of the party entered a carriage and returned to the Villa for lunch, after which an automobile trip was taken. During the trip the king took a photograph of Princess Ena. The party returned to Villa and took tea with numerous distinguished guests.

King Alfonso left for San Sebastian by train. He will return to attend a fox hunt. It has been decided that the princesses shall remain here for a while. King Alfonso will continue his visits as long as possible, consistent with his official duties.

#### Difficult to Dispossess

PARIS.—Violent scenes occurred in many Paris churches when government commissioners appeared to take inventories of the church property pursuant to the provisions of the law providing for the separation of church and state.

## GREET A NEW KING

FREDERICK THE EIGHTH REIGNS  
OVER DENMARK

### Popular Sort Of Monarch

ACCESSION HAILED WITH APPROPRIATE  
ENTHUSIASM

Sorrow for Death of Christian  
Nevertheless the Predominant  
Sentiment—Little Ceremonial  
at the Funeral.

COPENHAGEN.—The new king Frederick, the eighth, now reigns over Denmark. His accession has been hailed with all appropriate enthusiasm and ceremony, but sorrow for the death of Christian the ninth is the predominant sentiment. The overwhelming grief of the immediate members of this remarkably united family is reflected in only a slightly lesser degree in every home in Copenhagen, from the richest to the poorest, and only words of kindness are heard when the dead monarch is spoken of.

Throughout the earlier part of the day the lugubrious tolling of bells, the booming of minute guns, the universal evidences of mourning and the stagnation of business, even amid the strangely contrasting acclaims for the new king, told strongly of the deep feeling of the people of Denmark for the head of the nation whose remarkable career had ended so suddenly.

In a chamber of the Amalienborg palace, the body of the king lies in the modest bed in which he breathed his last. The door of the chamber is guarded by the king's adjutants as a guard of honor. A coverlet of simple crochet work, made by Christian's beloved queen, Louise, is spread over the couch, which is placed amid the simplest surroundings. The dead monarch's features are unchanged, and are composed as if in a sleep other than of death.

Following the wishes of King Christian the funeral will be attended with little ceremonial. The body, which will be placed in a coffin, will not actually lie in state, but prior to the entombment, which is expected to take place in about a fortnight, it will be visited by the chiefs of state.

The members of the family watch in the death chamber continually. The burial will take place in the cathedral of Roskilde, beside Queen Louise, in the chapel of Frederick the fifth.

King Haakon of Norway, Queen Alexandra of England and King George of Greece are expected to arrive in a few days, as well as a number of other princes and princesses from the continental capitals. It is thought that the emperor of Russia will attend the funeral, but this is uncertain. It is announced that Emperor William will be present in person, coming in a warship which he will occupy during his stay.

King Frederick the eighth, who is a great admirer of the United States expressed himself as being especially affected by the condolences of President Roosevelt in behalf of the American nation.

Frederick VIII was proclaimed king of Denmark in Amalienborg square, in front of the palace. The ceremony lasted only a few minutes. The premier, M. Christenson, appeared on the balcony of the palace, and announced to the 50,000 people assembled below the death of Christian IV and the accession of his eldest son. The premier then called for cheers for King Frederick VIII. The new ruler of Denmark joined the premier on the balcony and in a short speech declared that he would rule in accordance with the example set him by his father, and trusted that the same accord between the king and the nation would continue as heretofore. His majesty concluded with calling for cheers for the fatherland.

King Frederick received a warm hearted greeting from the assembled crowd, whose cheers mingled enthusiastically with the national anthem.

The church bells are tolling, minute guns booming from the forts, flags everywhere have been displayed at half mast and business practically has been at a standstill, the sorrowing inhabitants of Copenhagen gathering in the streets and discussing the virtues of their beloved king, Christian, and the probabilities of the future.

## NEBRASKA NOTES

Charged with cutting down trees within the corporate limits of the city, Dr. L. W. Studley of Beatrice, was fined \$30 and costs in police court.

James T. Moore, who has been deputy sheriff at Beatrice for the past two years, has resigned his position. It is understood he is an applicant for the position of United States deputy marshal.

The new firm of Miller & Ahern, James G. Miller and James Ahern, proprietors, will open a general store in a few days at Wayne to succeed the old established grocery firm of P. L. Miller & Son.

A calf with three eyes, two noses, two mouths, two sets of teeth and but two ears has made its appearance on a farm near Norfolk. The new arrival seems to be healthy. The third eye is in the middle of the calf's forehead.

Kamrath & Kalmer have purchased from John Horst the latter's stock of implements and he will devote his attention to the hardware business at Madison. Horst recently bought out the hardware stock of Richard Malong, who has resumed his former business of abstractor.

Seth Keily, who has been under a \$25 peace bond for the past six months at Tekamah, got into a fight and before the officers could get him he skipped. A new warrant has been issued and the marshal says he will get him if he ever goes back to that town again.

The Jahnke murder trial at Rushville concluded when the case was given to the jury, who did not reach a verdict of guilty until 3 o'clock in the afternoon. This concludes the most remarkable case ever tried in Lat county. The case occupied a week before it went to the jury.

Wickstrom & Faree, who have conducted a clothing store at Oakland for the past year, have dissolved partnership. A. F. Wickstrom purchasing the share of C. E. Faree, at invoice price, and will continue the business at the same stand.

The deal was closed for the purchase of the Indianola Reporter. E. S. Byfield and J. L. Sims, of the Danbury News became the new owners, with E. S. Byfield as editor and publisher. Mr. Phillips, the present owner, will devote himself to his other business interests in Indianola.

Samuel J. Barrow, a Denver man, who traveled for a Cincinnati clothing firm, died at Norfolk at the Pacific hotel, 500 miles from his home, with no one to care for him but a trained nurse. His wife was notified and she reached there about six hours after he died. Barrow had made that territory for twenty years.

The Fremont Herald has moved into its new quarters in the Masonic building on Fifth street, which it has leased for a period of years. New type and presses have been installed. The paper has been printed in the basement of the Farmers' and Merchant's Bank building for twenty-five years.

Justice Brittin held juvenile court at Wood River and had before him four boys, ranging from 8 to 15 years of age, on a charge of catching a playmate the Saturday night previous tying his hands and otherwise giving him a good scare. The justice gave the boys a good lecture and turned them loose.

Reports have been received by the sheriff of Albion for several days that an insane man, apparently a stranger in the county, has been wandering around in the southern part of the county. Sheriff Evans made a search for him, but failed to find him. He is reported about five miles west of Albion and the sheriff accompanied by several men, has again gone in pursuit.

Mrs. Maud Harding Heath, one of the teachers in the Madison public schools, has left for the home of her parents near Dorchester. About ten days ago she had a severe hemorrhage of the lungs and since then her condition has grown worse, so she was compelled to resign her position in the schools. Mrs. Heath was married early in the year to a university student who has an appointment to an engineer's position on the Panama canal, to which place at the end of the present school year his wife was to accompany him. Miss Grace Rummings who formerly taught in the Madison schools, has been elected to fill Mrs. Heath's position.