

70 Miners Entombed by Big Explosion

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

THE WEATHER.
Rain; Cooler

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FEDERAL TROOPS WILL GO TO COAL STRIKE REGION

Soldiers from Leavenworth Ordered to Trinidad—Fort Russell Men to Be Sent to Canon City.

WILSON ISSUES PROCLAMATION

Commands that Violence and Disorder in Colorado Cease.

TELEGRAM TO THE GOVERNOR

Considers it Necessary to Use Military Forces of United States.

ALL PARTIES SHOW PLEASURE

One Guard Killed in Battle at Walsenburg.

M'NALLY MINE IS CAPTURED

Strikers Burn Tipples After Killing Two Guards—A Posse is Then Formed at Boulder.

WASHINGTON, April 28.—President Wilson today ordered United States troops to take charge of the strike-torn scenes of the industrial war in Colorado. In proclamation to the people of the United States he commanded that all violence and disorder cease. The proclamation reads:

"By the President of the United States of America:

"A proclamation:

"Whereas, it is provided by the constitution of the United States that the United States shall protect every state in this union, on application of the legislature, or of the executive (when the legislature cannot be convened) against domestic violence; and,

"Whereas, the governor of the state of Colorado has presented that domestic violence exists in said state which the authorities of said state are unable to suppress, and has represented that it is impossible to convene the legislature of the state in time to meet the present emergency; and,

"Command to Disperse.

"Whereas, the laws of the United States require that in all cases of insurrection in any state, or of obstruction to the laws thereof, whenever in the judgment of the president it becomes necessary to use the military forces to suppress such insurrection or obstruction to the laws he shall forthwith by proclamation command such insurgents to disperse and retire peaceably to their respective abodes within a limited time:

"Now, therefore, I, Woodrow Wilson, president of the United States, do hereby command all good citizens of the United States, and all persons within the territory and jurisdiction of the United States against aiding, countenancing, abetting or taking part in such unlawful proceedings; and I do hereby warn all persons engaged in or connected with said domestic violence and obstruction of the laws to disperse and retire peaceably to their respective abodes on or before the 30th day of April instant.

"In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be fixed.

"Done at this city of Washington, this twenty-eighth day of April, in the year of our Lord, Nineteen Hundred and Fourteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the one hundred and thirty-eighth.

"In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be fixed.

"WILLIAM J. BRYAN,
Secretary of state."

Sends Telegram to Governor.

The president's telegram to Governor Ammons was as follows:

"In response to your telegram describing the situation at Walsenburg, Colorado, I have ordered the following:

"(Continued on Page Two.)

STATEMENT OF ROCKEFELLER

John D. Jr. Defines Position He Has Taken in Mine War.

JUST MINORITY STOCKHOLDERS

Will Not Accede to Demand of Strikers that Collieries of Colorado Be Unionized.

NEW YORK, April 28.—John D. Rockefeller, Jr., tonight issued a statement defining the position he, as head of the Colorado Fuel and Iron company, had taken in regard to the mine strike now in progress in that state which has cost the lives of many men, women and children and caused large property loss.

The statement in full which was given out after Mr. Rockefeller and his personal attorney, Starr J. Murphy, had worked over it all afternoon follows:

"In view of the inaccurate accounts which have appeared in the press regarding my interview with Congressman Foster, chairman of the committee on mines and mining, I think it proper to make the following statement:

Discussion of Question.

"In that interview at which Starr J. Murphy, one of the directors of the Colorado Fuel and Iron company, was present, we pointed out to Dr. Foster that of the many coal companies in Southern Colorado, we were interested solely and as minority stockholders in the Colorado Fuel and Iron company, which controls only about one-third of the output of that state. After a long and full discussion of the question from all its aspects, Dr. Foster was unable to make any suggestion which did not involve the unionizing of the mines or the submission of that question to arbitration. We stated to him that if the employees of the Colorado Fuel and Iron company had any grievances, we felt sure the officers of the company would be willing now, as they have always been in the past, to make every effort to adjust them satisfactorily. We showed the doctor that all of the points which are claimed to be at issue, with the exception of unionizing the company, the Colorado Fuel and Iron company had voluntarily granted to its employees long before the strike was called or talked of. These points are:

Points of Issue.

"First—The eight-hour day. This was established by the fuel company for all of its coal miners some time ago.

"Second—Semi-monthly pay. When this question was raised by one or two miners in one of the camps of the company, the officers without delay decided to pay not only the miners in that particular camp twice a month, but all the miners employed by the company.

"Third—Check weighmen. For several years the company has raised no objection to the employment by the miners of their own check weighmen as is done in eastern mines where union labor is employed. In order that new men might understand their right in this matter some time since the officers of the company gave instructions that circulars should be posted in all the mines stating that the company had always encouraged its miners to employ their own check weighmen.

"Fourth—Company stores. It has been charged that the employees of the fuel company are obliged to buy at the company's stores. The strikekeepers are under strict instructions to say to all that they are at liberty to trade where they please; that the company is glad of their patronage, but that their standing will not be affected one way or the other by their action in the matter. As a result of a study made in one of the mining camps of the company, it was found that only 22 per cent of the wages of the men was spent in the company's stores.

Increases Wages.

"Fifth—Wages. In spite of the fact that no dividends have been paid on the common stock of the company since our connection with it—a matter of at least ten or twelve years—and only \$50,000 has been paid on the preferred stock, of which the great portion represented payment on account of an accrued dividend which had accumulated during many years, the company voluntarily increased the wages of its miners last year by a total amounting to \$300,000 a year and of its steel employees by a total of \$200,000 a year. The wage scale compares favorably with that of any similar mines, whether union or non-union, in any part of the country.

"In addition to the above the only matter which has been raised by the union is the unionizing of the company's camp. On this question of the open shop, namely, the right of every American citizen to work on terms satisfactory to himself without securing the consent of the union, I reiterated to Dr. Foster what I said in my examination before the committee on mines and mining in Washington a few weeks ago—that we regarded this as a matter of principle which could not be arbitrated.

"In reply to his request for some suggestion as to how the strike could be ended, I stated:

"(Continued on Page Two.)

HUNDREDS BURIED

BY A SEROT IN WEST VIRGINIA

Two Hundred and Seventy-Two Men Reported Buried by Explosion at Eccles.

FEARED ALL HAVE PERISHED

Full Force of Workers on Duty When Accident Occurs.

RESCUE CREW IS ORGANIZED

Two Toilers Are Brought to the Surface.

BOTH OF THEM BADLY BURNED

It is Believed that They Will Die of Their Injuries.

CAR ON WAY FROM BLUEFIELDS

The Pittsburgh Station Starts a Life-saving Band Toward the Scene of Reported Disaster.

ECCLES, W. Va., April 28.—Four bodies have been taken out of shaft Nos. 5 and 6, each down about 600 feet deep, and could be heard in the town of Eccles, near which the mines are located. It was known that 196 men were in No. 5 and seventy-six in No. 4.

BECKLEY, W. Va., April 28.—Two hundred and seventy-two men are reported entombed by an explosion in the mine of the New River Collieries company at Eccles, W. Va.

The explosion occurred when a full force of men were at work in shafts Nos. 5 and 6, each down about 600 feet deep, and could be heard in the town of Eccles, near which the mines are located. It was known that 196 men were in No. 5 and seventy-six in No. 4.

Rescue Crew Formed.

A rescue crew was at once organized and succeeded in dropping down one shaft to the bottom where two men were found badly burned and brought to the surface. It is believed both were fatally hurt.

Another rescue party was organized and tried to enter the mine. They feared that almost, if not all, of the entombed men had perished.

Car on the Way.

PITTSBURGH, Pa., April 28.—The Pittsburgh station of the bureau of mines has already started a mine rescue car from Bluefield, W. Va., to Eccles, where twenty-seven men are reported entombed.

General Pershing Takes Command of Troops at El Paso

EL PASO, TEXAS, April 28.—The division of troops now on the Mexican border is prepared to take the field at five minutes' notice fully equipped for a long and severe campaign, according to Brigadier General John J. Pershing, who took over today the command of the United States forces gathered here. General Pershing said the troops had been supplied with thirty days' rations and sufficient ammunition and supplies to carry them through any campaign the War department might deem necessary. General Pershing, who arrived today with the last sections of the Sixth and Sixteenth infantry regiments from San Francisco, made an immediate inspection of the border patrol. He established his headquarters at Fort Bliss, but the Sixth and Sixteenth regiments encamped in this city.

Colonel C. A. P. Hatfield, who was relieved by General Pershing, has been ordered to take command of the Second cavalry brigade, which is scattered along the Arizona border. Colonel Hatfield and the headquarters staff of the Second brigade will leave for Douglas, Ariz., where he will establish headquarters.

Large Profits of Municipal Saloon Makes Town Go Dry

SIoux FALLS, S. D., April 28.—(Special.)—Notwithstanding that a majority of the voters of Sisseton have declared for the abolishing of the municipal saloon at that place, which recently has gained a great deal of fame because of the large profits which it gave the city, the residents of Wausley have commenced an active campaign for the installing of a municipal saloon at that place on July 1. It is planned to conduct it on somewhat the same plan followed in the case of the Sisseton saloon. Under the state law there is no authority for a municipality to engage in the saloon business, but there is nothing to prevent city councils from granting an individual the exclusive right to conduct a saloon, and then have citizens act as agents of the town in directing the operation of the saloon, and turning into the city treasury the profits derived therefrom. The making public of the great profits of the Sisseton saloon proved the undoing of the municipal saloon there, as the people believed too much money was being put into the hands of a few individuals. The voters declared for the abolishment of the municipal saloon and as a result Sisseton will be dry after July 1.

Woman and Four Children Burned to Death in Home

MOUNT UNION, Pa., April 28.—The authorities of Huntington county today began a search for two unidentified men last seen coming from the home of Peter Verner, in which Mrs. Mildred Verner and her four children were burned to death last night. The Verner home and another house adjoining it were destroyed by fire, which is believed to have been started by the men sought. From the condition of the bodies it could not be learned whether the victims had been killed before the house was fired.

Verner, the husband and father, who is employed at night, was at work when he noticed the flames in the direction of his home. With fellow workmen he rushed to the scene, but arrived too late. The house was in ruins. Later the five bodies were found in the debris. Verner thinks the men were burglars and entered the house to obtain \$250 which he had there.

Back to Watchful Waiting



CORDOBA CAPTIVES SLAIN?

Unconfirmed Rumor Says Six Americans Put to Death.

ALL ARE IN A SORRY FLIGHT

Several Women and Children in Refugee Party Are Threatened by Drunken Guards and Jeered by Populace.

VERA CRUZ, April 28.—An unconfirmed report was received here today to the effect that six Americans had been taken from the jail at Cordoba and killed and also that another American had been put to death at Cosamaloapan, a town about sixty miles south of Vera Cruz.

Neither Rear Admiral Fletcher nor Consul Canada had what they regarded as conclusive information as to the execution of the Americans, but they are investigating the report.

VERA CRUZ, April 28.—Sleeping on the stone flagging of the jail patio, with insufficient food, no sanitation and threatened every night with assassination by drunken jailers, is the experience of the Americans and other foreigners, including women and children, confined at Cordoba. Their release today has been promised by General Maas in reply to a request from American Consul Canada, through a messenger who returned to Vera Cruz today.

W. H. Mechling of the geographical survey of Canada, who has been for some time in Mexico in behalf of the universities of Harvard, Pennsylvania and Columbia, spent two days at Cordoba. He was detained, but not put in jail and finally was permitted to proceed here as an Englishman, though he is in reality an American.

Mechling went to the jail in Cordoba Sunday afternoon and talked to the prisoners, among whom are several with whom he is acquainted.

They begged him to communicate their plight to Consul Canada and Rear Admiral Fletcher in an endeavor to secure their release.

They are herded like cattle and are jeered at almost constantly, either

(Continued on Page Three.)

Nutshell News of the Mexican Embroglio

Mexico City Quiet.

LONDON, April 28.—Mexico City was quiet today, according to a cablegram received from the staff of a British commercial house there. The message said the employees were all well and safe.

Marines Entertain Squad of Federal VERA CRUZ, April 28.—Six federal soldiers who wandered too close to the American lines were captured late yesterday by marines. There is no desire among the Americans to attack or in any way assume the offensive against the Mexicans, so when the marines found themselves in possession of a squad of Huerta's soldiers they did their best to entertain them. They gossiped with the Mexicans regarding the news beyond the lines, and after a field luncheon shook hands with them and sent them away.

Will Not Try to Retake Vera Cruz. VERA CRUZ, April 28.—That President Huerta has decided not to attempt to try conclusions with the American forces near Vera Cruz is indicated by a report brought to the city by passengers arriving from the outlying districts. The passengers said they saw General Maas, former commandant at Vera Cruz, and his men making their way further into the interior from Soledad. With him were the few cadets who escaped from the naval academy after the battle fought there in the second day's engagement.

Admiral Fletcher Seizes Terminal. VERA CRUZ, April 28.—Rear Admiral Fletcher last evening seized the piers, yards and buildings of the Terminal company, a British owned concern, control over which he regarded as necessary in order to facilitate the resumption of the normal business activity of the city. The admiral had been endeavoring to rent the property, but could not come to an agreement with the managers as to the price to be paid.

Prior to the seizure W. Morcom, manager of the Mexican railway and president of the Terminal company, called on Rear Admiral Craddock of the British cruiser Essex and related the circumstances to him. The admiral advised Mr. Morcom to present his claims to the British foreign office.

British Army Will Not Exasperate the Ulster Volunteers

LONDON, April 28.—Special dispatches from Belfast to the newspapers here assert that the Ulster leaders are in possession of definite information that the officers of the regiments ordered from Dublin to the north on Sunday demanded to know the conditions of their service in Ulster and refused to take wartime measures. The officers, according to the correspondents, were told nothing would be done to exasperate the Ulster volunteers.

Met at noon. Debate resumed on naval appropriation bill. Ways and means committee postponed until December consideration of anti-tobacco coupon bill. Judiciary committee continued consideration of anti-trust bill. Public lands committee reported Church bill authorizing secretary of the interior to lease to occupants unpatented oil or gas land in California. Agricultural committee continued hearing on legislation against future trading in grain.

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